

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Chair, I strongly support the passage of the Graves amendment, of which I am a cosponsor, to establish a National Commission on the Future of the Army.

Last December, I joined with 142 of my colleagues in expressing to Defense Secretary Hagel my deep concerns about Army cost-saving proposals that would impose draconian cuts on the Army National Guard. Congress rightly rejected similar proposals that would have reduced end strength and force structure for the Air National Guard, and I am pleased that the Armed Services Committee chose to reject such proposals for the Army National Guard too.

I question the wisdom of making such cuts, considering the cost-effectiveness of the Army National Guard as a dual use force, and cost-savings that could be achieved in the Total Army by better leveraging the Operational Reserve. Blending Active and Reserve Component Army units, as the Air Force is doing, could ensure long-term budgetary savings to maintain a robust Total Army. As the Reserve Forces Policy Board (RFPB) has noted, a blended Total Army composition means more combat capability at about one-third the cost.

I believe we need to take a harder look at the future force structure of the Army, which is why a Commission is absolutely necessary. The House should fully consider and be fully informed about how the Army's proposed cuts fit into a long-term national security strategy.

With the operational reserve being rebuilt since September 11, 2001, this generation of Army National Guardsmen and Reservists has proven every bit as effective, committed, and capable as their active counterparts. These men and women have served with distinction and honor overseas, and our Nation cannot afford to lose their service. We must not go blindly down a path that would inhibit our Army's ability to respond to world events and domestic emergencies.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Chair, I rise today to discuss an important issue facing our troops—primary blast injury and its connection to traumatic brain injury.

TBI has become the "signature wound" of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, with 20% soldiers deployed are estimated to have experienced a brain injury. I would like to thank Chairman McKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for their commitment to this issue in recent authorizations.

As Co-Chair and Co-Founder of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, I have spent the last thirteen years fighting for patients with brain injuries, both on and off the battlefield. We all know that traumatic brain injury (TBI) is the signature wound of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and while we made great progress on ensuring our soldiers have the best care, there is still more work to be done.

The high rate of TBI and blast-related concussion events resulting from current combat operations directly impacts the health and safety of individual service members, and subsequently the level of unit readiness and troop retention. The Department of Defense (DoD) is actively seeking strategies to prevent, mitigate, and treat blast-related injuries, including TBI.

Since I began working on this issue, our knowledge of the brain has expanded at an incredible pace. In recent years, we have made strong investments in TBI research. The DoD's Peer-Reviewed Psychological Health and TBI Research Program conducts extensive research on TBI; however, little is known about primary blast injury and its connection to TBI. Primary blast injury occurs when an explosion generates a blast wave traveling faster than sound and creating a surge of high pressure immediately followed by a vacuum. Studies show that the blast wave shoots through armor and soldiers' skulls and brains, even if it doesn't draw blood. Researchers still do not know the exact mechanisms by which primary blast injuries damages the brain's cells and circuits. However, the blast wave's pressure has been shown to compress the torso, impacting blood vessels, which then send damaging energy pulses into the brain. The pressure can also be transferred partially through the skull, interacting with the brain.

My amendment would direct the Department of Defense to conduct a study on blast injury mechanics covering a wide range of primary blast injury conditions, including TBI. Understanding how a primary blast injury affects the brain is imperative to developing appropriate prevention measures, including ensuring proper equipment. I was glad to see this amendment pass the House last night, and I hope that it will be adopted in the final bill after negotiations with the Senate.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA STUDENTS

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate the University of Central Florida for winning the 2014 Raytheon National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (NCCDC). The competition, held April 25–27 in San Antonio, Texas, brought together the top ten college and university teams from across the country.

More than 180 colleges and universities and 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students participated in competitions leading up to the national championship. The Raytheon competition models real-world scenarios in which teams are required to maintain operational needs of their businesses and user demands amidst cyber attacks. Preparing the next generation of cyber security leaders is critical to defending our nation against ever-increasing threats.

Again, congratulations to the University of Central Florida team for bringing home the Raytheon NCCDC Alamo Cup and establishing the University as a national leader in cyber security.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Chair, I ask that the following exchange of letters be included as part of the RECORD during consideration of H.R. 4435:

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD "BUCK" MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In recognition of the importance of expediting the passage of H.R. 4435, the "Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Bill," the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence hereby waives further consideration of the bill. The Committee has jurisdictional interests in H.R. 4435, including intelligence and intelligence-related authorizations and provisions contained in the bill.

The Committee takes this action only with the understanding that this procedural route should not be construed to prejudice the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence's jurisdictional interest over this bill or any similar bill and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to the Committee in the future, including in connection with any subsequent consideration of the bill by the House. In addition, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence will seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation.

Finally, I would ask that you include a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter in the Congressional Record during the House debate on H.R. 4435. I appreciate the constructive work between our committees on this matter and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

MIKE ROGERS,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2014.

Hon. MIKE ROGERS,
Chairman, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I agree that the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,
Chairman, House Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCKEON: I write to you regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. There are certain provisions of this legislation that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security.

In the interest of permitting the Committee on Armed Services to proceed expeditiously to the House floor, I will not seek a sequential referral of H.R. 4435. However, I do so only with the mutual understanding that the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security over matters contained in this or similar legislation is in no way diminished or altered. I further request that you urge the Speaker to name Members of

this Committee to any conference committee that is named to consider such provisions.

Finally, I request you include this letter and your response into the committee report on H.R. 4435 and into the Congressional Record. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I am most appreciative of your support and interest in this important legislation. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD "BUCK" MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCKEON: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. This legislation contains subject matter within the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, however in order to expedite floor consideration of this important legislation, the Committee waives consideration of the bill.

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs takes this action only with the understanding that the committee's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered.

The committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference on this legislation and requests your support if such a request is made. Finally, I would appreciate your including this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4435 on the House Floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF MILLER,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2014.

Hon. JEFF MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I agree that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCKEON: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on the Judiciary in matters being considered in H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

Our committee recognizes the importance of H.R. 4435 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over the bill, I do not intend to request a sequential referral. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forego a sequential referral waives, reduces, or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee, and that a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest will be included in the Committee Report and as part of the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill by the House.

The Judiciary Committee also asks that you support our request to be conferees on the provisions over which we have jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2014.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I agree that the Committee on the Judiciary has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on the Judiciary is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD "BUCK" MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. This legislation contains subject matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources, including:

Sec. 602. No fiscal year 2015 increase in basic pay for general and flag officers

Sec. 611. One-year extension of certain expiring bonus and special pay authorities

Sec. 2841. Land conveyance, Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial, La Jolla, California

Sec. 2861. Memorial to the victims of the shooting attack at the Washington Navy Yard

Sec. 2864. Designation of Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial in Riverside, California

Sec. 2865. Renaming site of Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, Ohio

Sec. 2866. Manhattan Project National Historical Park

Title 29, Subtitle A—Naval Air Station Fallon, Nevada

Sec. 2911, Redesignation of Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area, California

Sec. 2921, Elimination of termination date for public land withdrawals and reservations under Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1999

Title 29, Subtitle D—Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, California

Title 29, Subtitle D—White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico

Sec. xxx, National security considerations for inclusion of federal property on National Register of Historic Places or designation as National Historic Landmark under the National Historic Preservation Act

To expedite floor consideration of this important legislation, and because of the extensive cooperation shown by you and your staff, the Committee will forego seeking a sequential referral of the bill. The Natural Resources Committee takes this action only with the understanding that the Committee's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered.

The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference on this legislation and requests your support if such a request is made. Finally, I would appreciate your including this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4435 on the House Floor.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2014.

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I agree that the Committee on Natural Resources has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Natural Resources is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON,
Chairman.

HONORING LTC (RETIRED)
NICOLETTE WHEELER

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a constituent of the Sixth District of Georgia, Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Nicolette Wheeler of the U.S. Army. Following a successful career, LTC Wheeler retired from the Army and moved with her husband to Alpharetta, Georgia. In 1995, LTC Wheeler was hired by the Fulton County School System to be the Senior Army Instructor at Roswell High School. In 2001, she was appointed to move to Central Administration to lead all 8 programs as the Director of Army Instruction.

Since being hired, LTC Wheeler has been recognized multiple times for her contributions to students and others: State Rifle Coach of the Year (2000), "Service Above Self" Award—Roswell Rotary (2001), JROTC Director of the Year—United States Army Cadet Command (2005), and State Outstanding Career and Technical Educator, JROTC Division (2009 and 2011). However, LTC Wheeler has been so much more than just a distinguished instructor and coordinator for the JROTC during her time in the Fulton County School System. Her students have always been her number one priority. She has been there to provide support and encouragement no matter if a student's ambition is an appointment to a service academy or passing an entrance exam to become a member of the United States Armed Forces.

At the end of this current school year, LTC Wheeler will retire. This is a bittersweet moment for all those students, past and present, whose lives she has dedicated herself to bettering. She has inspired all who have had the opportunity to work with her. Her tireless work on behalf of our community and country, her quiet leadership, and her collaborative spirit has not gone unnoticed and are deeply appreciated. Therefore, it is on behalf of the people of the Sixth District that I want to thank LTC Nicolette Wheeler for her years of outstanding and exemplary service.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON NA-
TIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of language Representative DOUG LAMBORN offered when the Committee on Armed Services marked-up the National Defense Authorization Act.

Like most Americans, I remain concerned about Iran's state sponsorship of terrorism, its horrendous human rights record, its efforts to destabilize its neighbors, its pursuit of intercontinental ballistic missiles, and its threats against our ally, Israel, as well as the fates of American citizens detained by Iran. I remain extremely alarmed by Iran's pursuit of uranium enrichment and plutonium separation efforts. In spite of Iran's statements to the contrary, I am concerned that these materials are in fact part of a nuclear weapons program. The pursuit of nuclear materials under the proclamation of peaceful energy initiatives raises some serious concerns when coming from a country with a terrible human rights record and ties to terrorist groups. It is both a necessity and a priority that the United States ensure that Iran does not have a nuclear weapon.

On November 24, 2013, Iran accepted the terms of an international proposal to tempo-

rarily halt further expansion of its nuclear program, in return for relief from economic sanctions. While this proposal would in theory limit Iran's nuclear enrichment program, it does nothing to prevent Iran from pursuing a warhead or nuclear delivery system for a nuclear weapon or curtailing other issues that are threats to U.S. security and the security of our allies. That is why I am supportive of Representative LAMBORN's amendment. This amendment makes it crystal clear, that it is the intent of the United States Congress that the U.S. should only agree to a comprehensive agreement on Iran's nuclear program if Iran ceases uranium enrichment, ceases all of their nuclear, chemical, biological, chemical weapon programs, ballistic missile program, and ballistic launch site technology and Iran has ceased providing support for international terrorist.

The United States government must use every tool possible to deter threats from Iran. Economic sanctions remain an important and necessary tool to deterring aggressive actions. Should the United States provide any relief from these Congressional mandated sanctions, it is imperative that Iran halt all activities that are threatening to our national interests. Mr. LAMBORN's amendment is an important and appropriate addition to the National Defense Authorization Act, and I look forward to seeing it included in law.

CONGRATULATING R.L. TURNER
HIGH SCHOOL'S NAVY ROTC FOR
THE DISTINGUISHED UNIT
AWARD

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate R.L. Turner High School's Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) program, in Carrollton, Texas, for being recognized with the Distinguished Unit Award based on performance and service during the 2013–2014 school year.

The NJROTC Distinguished Unit designation is awarded annually to schools whose program ranks in the top 30 percent of units throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Competing units are ranked according to the degree of excellence attained in administration, military proficiency, and host school support. Accordingly, R.L. Turner High School and the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District have contributed to the strong support and development of the NJROTC program.

R.L. Turner High School's NJROTC is a citizen leadership program designed to develop informed and responsible young men and women who embody honor, integrity, loyalty, courage, and respect for authority in a democratic society.

In addition to achieving numerous accolades, the R.L. Turner's NJROTC program, under the leadership of Lieutenant Martin Caro, U.S. Navy (Ret.) and Master Chief Martin Wesley, U. S. Navy (Ret.), is actively involved in service programs throughout the local community. The cadets volunteer for various color guard events, Veterans Day events, and parades. In addition, the NJROTC participates in the March of Dimes, Toys for Tots, and the Dallas Day of Service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the R.L. Turner High School's NJROTC program on receiving the Distinguished Unit Award.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF
WASHINGTON, DC YOUTH RUGBY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 10th anniversary of the Washington, DC Youth Rugby, a non-profit organization that reaches out to underserved children in the Nation's capital to promote health and physical fitness and teach valuable life skills through the sport of rugby.

In 2004, members of the Washington Rugby Club started out with the goal to teach rugby to a small group of students in Northeast Washington, DC. What started with seven players and a rugby ball has evolved to over a hundred students playing rugby in the District at the youth and high school levels.

Washington, DC Youth Rugby has grown from a summer-only program and is now working to implement rugby programs in DC schools. Washington, DC Youth Rugby founded a boys' team at Calvin Coolidge High School, which ran from 2009–2012. This year, the organization has started both boys' and girls' rugby teams at Bell Multicultural High School and is looking to start more programs in DC schools. They are currently working with both Washington Latin and Ballou.

The program continues to be free to all children and has a diverse mix of participants, both racially and socioeconomically. This program makes a difference to the youth of our city in terms of health, self-esteem, teamwork and social skills development.

In 2012, the program welcomed the support of the Honorable Kim Beazley, the Australian Ambassador to the United States, as the honorary patron. The Ambassador recognizes the value of sport in international relations and the positive impact a game like rugby can have on young people. In recognition of the 10th anniversary, the Embassy of Australia will host a celebration on Thursday, May 29, 2014.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking the coaches, volunteers, donors, partner schools, students, parents, and alumni as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of Washington, DC Youth Rugby and its many accomplishments.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON NA-
TIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense

and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for their work on this bill and their devotion to the men and women of the Armed Forces.

I also thank them for including in En Bloc Amendment No. 1 the Jackson Lee-Wilson-Lee Amendment, which makes three important contributions to the bill:

1. First, it strongly condemns the ongoing violence and the systematic gross human rights violations against the people of Nigeria carried out by the militant organization Boko Haram, especially the kidnapping of the more than 200 young schoolgirls kidnapped from the Chibok School by Boko Haram;

2. Second, it expresses support for the people of Nigeria who wish to live in a peaceful, economically prosperous, and democratic Nigeria; and

3. Third, it requires that not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment, the Secretary of Defense shall report to Congress on the nature and extent of the crimes against humanity committed by Boko Haram in Nigeria.

Since 2013, more than 4,400 men, women, and children have been slaughtered by Boko Haram.

The victims include Christians, Muslims, journalists, health care providers, relief workers and schoolchildren.

I am confident that the international community working with the African Union will assist the Government of Nigeria in bringing an end to Boko Haram's reign of terror and ensuring that its crimes against humanity are documented so its leaders can be held accountable.

Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a letter to President Obama from myself and 15 House colleagues commending his decision to deploy American security experts and equipment in Nigeria to help locate and rescue the more than 200 Nigerian kidnapped schoolgirls and to work in concert with the Government of Nigeria and the African Union to bring Abubakar Shekau and other leaders of Boko Haram to justice.

The Jackson Lee-Wilson-Lee Amendment affirms that the United States stands with the civilized world in solidarity with the people of Nigeria.

The Jackson Lee-Wilson-Lee Amendment affirms that the United States is fully committed to the fundamental principle that women everywhere have a right to be free, to live without fear, and should not be forced to risk their lives to get the education they want and deserve.

I thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for including this amendment in En Bloc Amendment #1 and all Members to support it.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, May 8, 2014.

President BARACK OBAMA

The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing to commend your decision to deploy American security experts and equipment in Nigeria to help locate and rescue the more than 200 Nigerian schoolgirls kidnapped by the terrorist group, Boko Haram. We support your action and we strongly urge you to work in concert with the Government of Nigeria and the African Union to achieve this objective and to

bring Abubakar Shekau and other leaders of Boko Haram to justice.

Boko Haram, a militant group designated by the State Department in November 2013 as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, has been conducting a reign of terror against innocent Nigerian women, children, and men since 2009, when it killed hundreds of persons during a raid of a police station in Maiduguri. In the last four years, Boko Haram has carried out more than 480 violent attacks against a broad array of targets: Christian and Muslim communities, government installations, schools, hospitals and medical facilities, aid workers and journalists. Since the beginning of 2013, more than 4,400 innocent persons have been killed and thousands more left homeless.

According to media reports, the leader of Boko Haram has threatened to ransom or sell the girls into the human trafficking market for about twelve dollars each (\$12.00 USD). This outrageous conduct cannot be tolerated or overlooked. Not only is it a violation of the girls' human rights, it is also contrary to United States policy supporting and promoting equal access to education and economic opportunity for women and girls.

We know that terrorist groups cannot operate effectively without reliable and steady funding to support its criminal acts. Therefore, we urge you to work with the international community to detect, disrupt, and dismantle the funding networks financing Boko Haram, which published reports indicate has received as much as \$70 million from other Islamist groups, including Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), the Al Muntada Trust Fund, and the Islamic World Society.

Additionally, we urge you to consider working with the Government of Nigeria to develop its own capacity to deploy specialized police and army units rapidly to rescue the schoolgirls and bring Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau to justice. Such units also can be deployed to prevent and combat sectarian violence in cities and around the country where there has been a history of sectarian violence. The creation of an elite highly-trained rapid response unit would appear to be a sound short-term strategy that the Government of Nigeria should employ in dealing with violent groups like Boko Haram. This approach was used to successful effect by the Indonesia Government in 2004 to neutralize the Laskar Jihad terrorist organization.

Finally, we call upon you to take appropriate action to help the Government of Nigeria establish a Victim's Fund to provide humanitarian relief and economic assistance to the victims of attacks by Boko Haram so that they can rebuild their lives and communities.

"People are the great issue of the 20th century," declared, then-Senator Hubert Humphrey in 1948. The well-being of people remains the great issue of the 21st century. And there is no better measure of any society than the way it treats its women and girls. Boko Haram understands that when Nigerian girls are educated, Nigerian women can succeed; and when Nigerian women succeed, Nigeria succeeds. And that is why it is so important that the United States help Nigeria ensure that Boko Haram fails.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of our recommendations. We stand ready to work with you to bring about the safe rescue of the kidnapped Nigerian schoolgirls and to reunite them with their families and loved ones.

Sincerely,

LIST OF SIGNATORIES

Marcia L. Fudge, Karen E. Bass, Donald Payne, Jr., John Lewis, Yvette D. Clarke, Robin Kelly, Janice Hahn, Sheila Jackson

Lee, Terri A. Sewell, Corrine Brown, Fred-
erica Wilson, Gregory W. Meeks, Barbara
Lee, Marc Veasey, Members of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am writing to inform the House of Representatives how I would have voted had I been able to be present in the House on Monday May 19, 2014 and on Tuesday May 20, 2014. I was unavoidably absent, and instead in my Congressional District in Georgia, due to Georgia's Federal Primary Election day being Tuesday May 20, 2014.

With that said, this is how I would have cast my votes on rollcall votes before the House.

Monday May 19, 2014:

Rollcall 218, on H.R. 2203, To provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus—"yea."

Rollcall 219, on H.R. 685, To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces, collectively—"yea."

Tuesday May 20, 2014:

Rollcall 220, on the Conference Report to H.R. 3080—Water Resources Reform and Development Act—"yea."

Rollcall 221, on H.R. 3530—Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act—"yea."

Rollcall 222, on H.R. 4225—Stop Adversing Victims of Exploitation (SAVE) Act—"nay."

WEST POINT GRADUATES

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate Michigan's United States Military Academy class of 2014 for completing the demanding requirements of West Point. They will soon receive their commission as 2nd Lieutenants in the U.S. Army and go on to serve our great nation, protecting American national security interests throughout the world. Their commitment to the Army and this country is admirable.

As a former officer in the United States Army, I commend them on this outstanding accomplishment. I take great pride in seeing Americans, young men and women like them, choose such a demanding, honorable path.

I wish them nothing but continued success and congratulate them again on achieving such a momentous accomplishment.

LIST OF CADETS GRADUATING FROM THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT ON MAY 28, 2014

Andrew E. Carlson, Troy; Andrew R. Fanko, Perry; Andrew J. Lee, Novi; April C. Emerson, Stanwood; Benjamin M. Miller, Clinton Twp.; Benjamin E. Schiff, Lakeville; Brenden A. Plancon, Charlevoix; Cabot M. Howell, Birmingham; Calla E. Glavin, Birmingham; Devon J. Comeau, Oakland; Garrett T. Kastl, Hope; Ian M. Brambs, Farmington Hills; Jacob T. Gleason, Warren; James M. DiMilia, Northville.

John G. Buckle, Northville; Justin W. Haggerty, Belleville; Kyle A. Maxwell, Romeo; Matthew J. Hoff, Portage; Matthew A. Thompson, Ann Arbor; Paul P. Hancock IV, Dearborn; Peter T. Noreen, Cedar Springs; Quetzalcoatl S. Carrasco, Ypsilanti; Ricardo J. Galindo, Farmington Hills; Rita I. Snyder, Rockford; Thomas A. White, Ann Arbor; Emily N. Clemons, Grosse Ile; Joshua P. Herbeck, Ann Arbor; Charles M. Kelly, Birmingham; Morgan K. White, Monroe.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF JOE INFAUSTO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Joe Infausto as he retires after 43 years of public service as a police reserve officer. Joe's commitment and dedication to serving his community deserves to be commended.

Joe began his career in law enforcement in 1970 with the Clovis Police Department Auxiliary Unit. In 1977, he received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Criminology from California State University, Fresno. That same year, Joe was transferred to the Fresno Police Department Reserve Unit where he served for thirty-six years.

As a reserve officer, Joe was a citizen volunteer who donated his time and energy to help make Fresno a better place. Throughout his law enforcement career, Joe received numerous commendations for his service and professionalism, including achieving the rank of Lieutenant in 1999.

Joe's dedication to the security of his community was not only exemplified through his service but also through the establishment of his small business, BESTEC Security in 1983. BESTEC Security provided state of the art security systems and equipment to individuals and families throughout the Central Valley for 23 years. Joe sold the business in 2006 and continued to serve as a Fresno Police Department Reserve Officer.

Prior to leaving the Reserve Unit, Joe was assigned to the Mounted Unit, where he continued to carry out his duty to protect and serve the citizens of Fresno while on horseback.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Joe Infausto as he celebrates his retirement from the Fresno Police Reserve Unit.

HONORING STRAIGHT "A" STUDENTS AT ROACH MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of bright, dedicated, and dynamic students at Roach Middle School. These students worked hard and earned "All A's" during the 2013–2014 school year. The effort and hard work behind

these stellar letter grades is a testament to the student's dedication to excellence and their superior educators.

I believe the most precious gifts we can give to our children are loving families and a good education. These two things together make up the backbone to a young person's success and when we see our kids succeed, we too succeed. I thank Roach Middle School parents, teachers and faculty for the time, energy, and effort they invest in our young leaders daily.

At a young age, these students are striving for a brighter future with more opportunities to discover their passions and reach their fullest potential. It gives me great pride to know that an exceptional education with life-long values is being taught at Roach Middle School. Their success is not only a tribute to their commitment to education but also to the support they receive from their family and teachers.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these dedicated students, whose names are listed below, and I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on their achievement, and to encourage them in their future endeavors. Keep up the good work!

God Bless you and I salute you.

Aloki Ajmera, Shoshana Ambers, Rishika Balreddygari, Meredith Beck, Avery Braune, Makenna Carlson, Tayah Chece, Aaron Cheung, Emily Chilton, Isabel Daniel, Paulina Delgadillo, Cambria Dyess, Ashton Eades, Brooke Friedman, Megan Gallacher, Kristine Gauch, Yashna Gongal, Danna Gonzalez-Pedroza, Sheza Habib, Emma Hackley, Alexandria Hayes, Bailey Jarrett, Shrita Jayanthi, Simran Kakkar, Amanda Kampe, Krishna Karur, Alexis King, Aranya Krishnan, Samyuktha Kumar, Judy Lee, Grace Li, Jeffrey Li, Arturo Martinez, Alex McEachem, Emma Nalbantov, Shubhi Nanda, Isabelle Ong, Marianne Pugh, Sophia Quiroz, Isha Rajupet.

Anne Remorca, Reece Riherd, Ryan Sanders, Isabella Selunich, Sophia Schmich, Alexandra Shrauner, Abbey Sprick, Sofia Torres, Kerry Tu, Karthik Tummala, Lillian Vukin, Rosie Wang, Jessica Wu.

HONORING GUNNER'S MATE RANDOLPH (RANDY) F. JONES

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a constituent of the Sixth District of Georgia, former Gunner's Mate Randolph (Randy) F. Jones. Born on June 3, 1924 in Phoenix City, Alabama, Randy was raised on a farm during the Great Depression. Due to the hard times, Randy and his family moved to Talbot County, Georgia, where his grandfather maintained a farm where corn, peanuts, sweet potatoes, soy beans and cotton were grown. Moving to Warm Springs, Georgia, in 1942, Randy soon got a job as a grocery clerk at the Warm Springs Foundation. Warm Springs is famous nationally as the location frequented by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt for his treatment for polio.

His initial time at Warm Springs did not last long, as Randy enlisted in the Navy near the end of 1942 while the nation fought the Second World War. During this time, he served as a Gunner's Mate on the Destroyer U.S.S.

Swanson. His tour of duty took him around the globe and included the Mediterranean, the Pacific and the Atlantic. Randy was discharged in 1946.

After serving his nation, Randy returned to his job in Warm Springs. While there, he met the love of his life, Sarah Leverett. They were happily married for 46 years until she passed away in 1993. Randy has two children, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Randy worked at the Warm Springs foundation for 47 years. During the time he was there, Randy worked as a grocery store clerk and manager, food buyer, chef, purchasing agent and even managed a golf course in his spare time. Additionally, he served on the county school board for 10 years.

Currently residing at the Elmcroft of Roswell Senior Living Community, Randy has continued to attend to the needs of his friends and neighbors. For three years running, Randy has been voted by his peers as Valentine King. He currently is President of "The Elmcroft Elder Statesman."

On June 3 of this year, Randy will celebrate his 90th birthday. For all of his years of service to our community and nation, the people of Georgia's Sixth District sincerely thank him.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR
KENNETH M. QUINN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn for being named the twenty-third recipient of the Iowa Award by Iowa Governor Terry Branstad. This is a remarkable and well-deserved achievement for one of the finest citizens in Iowa's 168 year history.

The Iowa Award is the highest citizen award attainable from our great state. Established in 1948 by Governor Robert Blue and the Iowa Legislature, the Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation bestows the Iowa Award approximately every half decade through a self-financed event. The foundation was created "to encourage and recognize the outstanding service of Iowans" in numerous fields and to recognize the "merit of their accomplishments in Iowa and throughout the United States."

Knowing Ambassador Quinn and counting him as a close friend, I can think of no more deserving Iowan to be formally recognized for his service to our state, nation, and world as a whole. Kenneth will formally join this elite class of Iowans, including President Herbert Hoover, Dr. James Van Allen, Vice President Henry Wallace, and Dr. Norman Borlaug, when Governor Branstad presents Ambassador Quinn with the Iowa Award at the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates in Des Moines later this month.

Mr. Speaker, I have lauded Ambassador Quinn's astounding biography, service, philanthropy, and heroism previously in this hallowed chamber and I am privileged to reiterate that sentiment today. Ambassador Quinn has dedicated his life and his talents to assisting those in all corners of the globe and words cannot express the extent of his positive impact left on his colleagues, the State of Iowa, and countless individuals around the world. It

has been one of the greatest honors of my career to represent and assist Kenneth in all that he does and his selection by Governor Branstad to receive the Iowa Award is affirmation that I am far from alone in my effusive praise and appreciation. I invite my fellow Members of Congress to join me in thanking Ambassador Quinn for his decades of unwavering service and to congratulate him as the people of Iowa proudly count him among our state's most storied and influential citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF ELAINE JANSON

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Elaine Janson, a true leader in our community who has served China Lake for over thirty years and the past ten years of her life to the students of the Sierra Sands Unified School District in California.

Receiving her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and a Masters in Public Administration from California State University, Bakersfield, Elaine began work as a clerk for the Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) China Lake, located in Ridgecrest, California. In 1974, she became an administrative officer in the School of Education and the Department of Physics at the University of Southern California, but returned to NAWS China Lake in 1978 to head the Corporate Budget Division in the Office of the Comptroller where she was responsible for formulating and executing the base's budget of \$1 billion.

Through the Office of General Counsel, Elaine founded the Commercial Applications and Transfer Office, which was responsible for negotiating patent license agreements, as well as cooperative research and development agreements. She was awarded the Commander's Award in 1993 for these efforts. She negotiated landmark agreements in both the intellectual property and educational partnership areas as well for NAWS. Elaine is also a founding member of the NAWS Business Development Office, which works to expand the base's work and bring additional jobs and business to our community. During this period, she was a founding member of the China Lake Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptroller, serving as its Vice President, and has been members of multiple other organizations, including the Federal Laboratory Consortium, the Technology Transfer Society and the Association of University Technology Managers. Not only did Elaine dedicate time serving NAWS, she also plays a leadership role in the Ridgecrest community, serving on the Ridgecrest United Way of California board and the Indian Wells Valley Concert Association. She retired after 33 years in Federal service with the United States Navy, but Elaine's passion for service did not end there.

Elaine has spent the last ten years with Sierra Sands Unified School District where she began in 2003 as the Chief Financial Officer. Later, she moved on to serve as the school district's Assistant Superintendent for Business and Assistant Superintendent for Construction.

Over the period of her tenure, she not only oversaw the district budget, but also supervised maintenance and operations, transportation, food service, and warehouse departments. Her work with Superintendent Joanna Rummer also helped secure significant Federal funds to replace Murray Middle School and modernize Burroughs High School to ensure our students are able to obtain a world-class education in modern buildings. Additionally, during a period in which the entire nation experienced one of the worst economic climates, Sierra Sands Unified School District remained fiscally solvent and maintained the integrity of its outstanding academic programs.

If anything personifies Elaine's service, it is her passionate advocacy for her students in the school district. I have enjoyed working with Elaine to promote Sierra Sands Unified School District, its students, and our Ridgecrest community. I will miss our frequent visits and the See's Candies that Elaine always brings with her, but I know she is looking forward to spending more time with her husband, James, and their 14 children and grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful community, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Elaine for her outstanding service and wishing her a happy retirement as she begins this next chapter of her life.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Chair, I rise to thank Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for agreeing to include three of my amendments into this en bloc package. Those amendments are numbered "43", "81", and "140", respectively.

Grayson Amendment No. 43 will reinsert a worthwhile provision from the introduced version of H.R. 4435, requested by the Department of Defense, that was omitted from the bill text marked up in committee.

This amendment provides the authority and discretion necessary to return personal property that is retained as evidence in connection with an investigation into a sexual assault involving a member of the Armed Forces.

After the conclusion of all legal, adverse action, and administrative proceedings related to an incident, should a victim desire to have certain personal belongings returned to him or her, our Armed Forces will now have the ability to fulfill that request.

As we all know, one of the primary goals of the American judicial system is to produce outcomes that will "make the victim whole." Sometimes, Madam Chair, one important thing that we can offer a victim is to return items that he or she may cherish, which may have

been confiscated as evidence during the course of an investigation.

Let me be clear—this amendment is not intended to provide any new privileges to any perpetrator of a sexual assault. I am offering this amendment today to provide victims an opportunity to reclaim those items that are important to them.

It was good policy when this bill was introduced, and it is good policy now.

Grayson Amendment No. 81 will prohibit the Department of Defense from contracting with entities convicted of using “Made in America” labels fraudulently.

The current law governing this issue can be found at 10 U.S.C. 2410f. It states very clearly that if a person is convicted of intentionally affixing a label bearing a “Made in America” inscription, then the Secretary of Defense has the discretion not to debar that person from contracting with the Department of Defense.

Madam Chair, if we are going to put laws on the books to address an issue, they should mean something. We, the Members of this body, should make our intent clear. If someone purposely misrepresents an item as being “Made in America”, and he is convicted of that crime—he does not get the benefit of securing contracts with our Armed Forces.

My amendment accomplishes that goal. It requires debarment of the entities outlined above, while at the same time allowing the Secretary of Defense a narrow national security exception, which should be used only in the most extreme circumstances.

This amendment makes good sense. It protects American businesses, and appropriately punishes those who have the audacity to claim that a product has been “Made in America” when it has not.

I’d be remiss at this time, if I did not thank my good friend, Representative CAROL SHEA-PORTER from the great state of New Hampshire. She has been discussing the idea of this amendment with me at least since February, and she was integral in its drafting and securing the support of her colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee. For that I am grateful—thank you again, Representative SHEA-PORTER for all of your hard work in support of this amendment.

Finally, Madam Chair, Grayson Amendment No. 140 will extend the current United States Space Protection Strategy by an additional five-year period—until 2030.

In the 2008 NDAA, Congress required that a greater priority be put on the protection of national security space systems. It directed the Secretary of Defense, in conjunction with the Director of National Intelligence, to develop a strategy for the development of capabilities that are necessary to ensure freedom of action in space for the United States.

The strategy, which is outlined in the notes to 10 U.S.C. 2271, is required to cover fiscal years 2008 through 2013; 2014 through 2019; and 2020 through 2025. My amendment, recognizing that the first five-year covered period has lapsed, simply requires an additional five-year period—2026 through 2030.

I am proud that this amendment will still be in force when my nine-year-old sons have grown into adults. This amendment will protect not just the United States’ position in space, but also their physical well-being.

Madam Chair, again, I thank Chairman McKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for agreeing to include all three of these amend-

ments in this en bloc package. I believe these amendments make America not only a safer place, but a better place.

RECOGNIZING LT. COL. JOHN J. MCCARTHY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Lt. Col. John J. McCarthy retired from the United States Marine Corps in 1975 after 29 years of outstanding service and leadership. He is the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, which was awarded to him in 1969 citing his courage, superior airmanship and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of great personal danger in Vietnam. He also was awarded the Bronze Star and 19 Air Medals. Lt. Col. McCarthy was 17 years old when he joined the United States Navy in 1946, subsequently earning a college degree from Temple University. Because of his long-standing interest in flying, in 1952 he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps and entered flight school. In 1964, he was deployed to Vietnam, where he flew 180 missions. He would return to Vietnam in 1968 as the commanding officer at Chu-Lai and flew another 130 combat missions. He will be honored by his fellow members of the Jesse W. Soby American Legion Post, 148 in his home County of Bucks, Pennsylvania, on Memorial Day, 2014—a ceremony he will attend in full uniform. It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge the exemplary service of a courageous leader who has honorably served his country and set an example for others to follow.

DC BLACK PRIDE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, once again, I am proud to join DC Black Pride, as I have since its beginnings on Banneker Field. This Memorial Day weekend, May 23th–25th, marks the 24th annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, D.C.

DC Black Pride 2014 is a multi-day festival featuring: an opening reception; community town hall meetings; educational workshops; a poetry slam; a film festival; a church service; and performances by musicians, dancers, and other artists at the Cultural Arts/Health and Wellness Expo, the culminating event of DC Black Pride. DC Black Pride is widely considered to be one of the world’s preeminent Black Pride celebrations, drawing more than 30,000 people to the nation’s capital from across the United States as well as from Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

As the very first Black Pride festival, DC Black Pride fostered the beginning of the Center for Black Equity (formerly known as the International Federation of Black Prides, Inc. and the “Black Pride Movement,” which now consists of 40 Black Prides on four continents.

Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc., the celebration’s organizing body, chose “I AM Pride” as the theme for this year’s celebration. This theme reflects the connectedness of the Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community and its commitment to fulfilling the mission of DC Black Pride, which is to increase awareness of and pride in the diversity of LGBT Blacks. Moreover, the theme expresses the resolve of the African-American LGBT community and its allies to come together to: fight for LGBT equality; celebrate its heritage and culture as members of both the Black and LGBT communities; and promote health and wellness for the community.

DC Black Pride is a project of the Center for Black Equity and is coordinated by Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr. and Kenya Anthony Hutton with assistance from Andrea Woody-Macko, Robert “Harold” Dinkins and dozens of volunteers.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming all attending the 24th annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, D.C., and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that United States citizens who reside in Washington, D.C. are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

HOWARD P. “BUCK” McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support my commonsense amendment included in En Bloc Amendment #7 that would express the Sense of Congress that active duty military personnel who live in or are stationed in Washington, DC should be exempt from existing District of Columbia firearms restrictions.

It is no secret that the District of Columbia has historically had some of the most restrictive firearm regulations in the nation even after the victory for Second Amendment rights in the 2008 ruling by the Supreme Court in *District of Columbia v. Heller*. With approximately 40,000 service men and women across all branches of the Armed Forces either living in or stationed on active duty within the Washington, DC metropolitan area, these individuals are subject to the very laws of the District of Columbia that make the lawful possession of firearms nearly impossible.

Mr. Chair, my amendment would recognize that the DC handgun law, especially in regard to trained service men and women, punishes individuals well-equipped to protect themselves and others while emboldening perpetrators of violent crime. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this amendment.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON NA-
TIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of the McMorris Rodgers/Bishop amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. As co-chairs of the Congressional Military Family Caucus, we are committed to supporting military families. Our amendment highlights a growing issue for military spouses: that of unemployment and underemployment.

Military spouses face a unique lifestyle marked by frequent moves, increased family responsibility during deployments, and limited career opportunities in certain geographic locations. These circumstances make it especially tough for those who want to build a portable career that matches their skills, including their education and experience.

According to a recent DoD survey, the unemployment rate for civilians married to a military member is 25 percent—and climbs to 33 percent for spouses of junior enlisted members. In contrast, the average unemployment rate for individuals 20 years and over is 6.1 percent. A recent Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)/Institute for Veterans and Military Families' (IVMF) Military Spouse Employment Report looked beyond unemployment, finding that 9 out of 10 female military spouses who are employed possess more formal education or experience than is needed in their current position. Many spend years obtaining a degree or developing an area of expertise, only to find that they must be relicensed or recertified each time they move across state lines. For medical professionals, nurses, attorneys, teachers, and numerous others, the financial and emotional burden is too much. Their circumstances make it difficult to build a retirement fund, or get the promotion or tenure they would obtain in civilian life.

DoD has demonstrated its commitment to helping military spouses obtain employment by establishing several programs, including the Military Spouse Employment Partnership (MSEP), a computer portal that connects companies with military spouses seeking employment. Since MSEP's launch in June 2011, more than 61,000 military spouses have obtained jobs through the program. DoD presently collects data on the number of businesses participating in MSEP and the number of military spouses placed in a job through the program. However, information is not available on the types of jobs obtained and whether they are commensurate with an applicant's experience or education.

Our amendment would require DoD to begin gathering this data, which will equip us to better address the complex employment challenges of military spouses.

I applaud DoD for its significant progress in addressing military spouse unemployment. Yet, we have a continuing responsibility to make sure our programs are as effective as possible. I urge my colleagues to support our amendment to enhance efforts to address military spouse unemployment and underemployment.

IN RECOGNITION OF KATHLEEN
McDERMOTT'S RETIREMENT

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kathleen J. McDermott, the Executive Director of the Montachusett Opportunity Council, Inc. (MOC) a \$17 million anti-poverty community action agency serving North Central Massachusetts. After many many years of dedicated service, Kathy will be enjoying a well-earned retirement.

MOC does incredible work. Their mission is to alleviate poverty and create healthy communities by providing services, coordinating community resources that promote self-sufficiency and advocating for social change. Last year, MOC provided services in 30 communities and served over 20,000 individuals.

Prior to becoming Executive Director, Kathy was the agency's Director of Administration and Finance. During her tenure the agency has developed many new initiatives. MOC is known for addressing the changing needs of the community by planning strategically, using new approaches and collaborating with community partners to build a more vibrant community. Programs the agency administers include Asset Development, ChildCare and Head Start, Youth Services, Education, Training and Employment, Wellness and Nutrition Services, Energy Conservation, Housing, Elder Services, Homelessness Services and Neighborhood Development.

Kathy was instrumental in the establishment of the Community Health Connections Family Health Center, a federally funded health center with sites in Fitchburg, Leominster and Gardner and served as its first President of the Board of Directors.

When Kathy officially retires on August 1st, MOC will have big shoes to fill. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kathy on her retirement and wishing her the very best in the years ahead.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON NA-
TIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Chair, in 2011, all of New York's Chinatown suffered a profound loss when Private Danny Chen died in Afghanistan. We did not lose this young man through combat with the enemy. Rather, Danny passed away after enduring horrific abuse and hazing at the hands of others in his unit. After months of being forced to do push-ups while holding water in his mouth, being kicked, called racial slurs and having rocks thrown at him, Danny died while on guard duty.

One of the great tragedies of this case is that Danny's superiors—both enlisted troops and officers—were either complicit with his hazing or turned a blind eye, allowing his abuse to continue. We have to wonder, if Danny Chen had somewhere to turn whether he would still be alive today. If someone else in Danny's unit had been able to speak out—without fear of repercussions—might things have ended differently? Would Danny's parents, Szu Chen and Yao Ten, still have their son?

Unfortunately, hazing remains too common in the military—and often goes unreported. By requiring every branch of the military to establish a tip line where these incidents could be reported, this amendment would help create a zero-tolerance environment for hazing. Not only will this provide help for the servicemember suffering abuse, but it can serve as a powerful deterrent. When potential bullies know inappropriate behavior can be anonymously and safely reported, they will be more cautious.

Madam Chair, no family should have to endure what the Chens have. The brave men and women who serve our Nation risk everything on our behalf. We owe it to them to ensure they operate in a professional environment where everyone is afforded dignity and respect, regardless of background. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on the amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CERTIFY
IT ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to be a voice for the employees and owners of small businesses across the United States. The working class men and women who are struggling to make ends meet and who are on the front lines on the war against rising health care costs deserve to know the truth about Obamacare. The truth is Obamacare is hurting small businesses and their employees. Health care costs are rising and Obamacare is causing the problem rather than solving it.

To shed some light on increased health care costs and their impact on America's middle class, I am introducing the Certify It Act. This bill requires the Comptroller General of the United States to annually study, for five years, the impact the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) will have on small business jobs and health care insurance premiums.

This bill would also provide for a one-year delay of the employer mandate, the cornerstone of Obamacare, should the Comptroller General or the Office of Actuary at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

(CMS), determine that Obamacare is causing a net employment loss among small businesses or caused small group health care insurance premiums to rise. Comptroller General would be required to conduct this study every year and the employer mandate would be delayed for every negative finding. In addition, should the Comptroller General or CMS fail to submit a report as specified by this bill, the employer mandate will not apply for the following calendar year.

It is time for the Administration to be honest with the American people. It is time to protect our working class men and women who are going to feel the most negative impacts of Obamacare. The Certify It Act will prove once and for all that Obamacare causes job loss for small business and increases costs to small business health care. Mr. Speaker, it is time to protect the people and increase jobs.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4031, The Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014. This bill would give the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) complete authority to fire or demote senior leaders based on performance.

This bill originated from an increasing amount of evidence supporting a lack of management accountability in the department's efforts to curb the disability benefits backlog. Now with the devastating discovery of a growing number of preventable deaths at VA medical centers across the country, this legislation has become more essential.

The department is failing to do its primary job, which is to provide the best health care and benefit services to our veterans. Sadly, the recent reports of mismanagement at VA medical centers only add to the growing list of problems that have plagued the VA. It is time that underperforming senior leaders are held accountable and punished for their poor performance, as opposed to the status quo of ignoring mismanagement practices and rewarding misconduct. Our nation's heroes deserve better.

With the passage of H.R. 4031, this bill would allow for the VA secretary to cut through the mounds of red tape to discipline and remove senior leaders. As an original cosponsor of the bill, I was pleased to see the House take action and pass it with an overwhelming majority. By giving the secretary the direct authority to reprimand leaders it sends a clear message that mismanagement will no longer be tolerated.

The culture at the VA has clearly lost its way and is in need of leadership that can bring back the focus towards its core values of Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect and Excellence. These core values have been ignored for too long. It is time to put the interests of America's veterans ahead of the interests of federal bureaucrats so that we keep our promises to the brave men and women

who have protected so much for our freedom and liberty.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NICARAGUAN CULTURAL COMMITTEE
"JOSE DE LA CRUZ MENA"

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Nicaraguan Cultural Committee "Jose de la Cruz Mena," and salute them for the wonderful cultural efforts they are producing for the residents of the City of Los Angeles.

Founded in 2010, the Nicaraguan Cultural Committee "Jose de la Cruz Mena" is a small but dedicated organization committed to raising awareness on the traditions and customs of Nicaraguans who reside in the City of Los Angeles.

Since music is fundamental to Nicaraguan culture and spirit, the committee opted to be named after Jose de la Cruz Mena, a pioneering artist who was the first to introduce classical music to Central America. Although he suffered from various illnesses that left him blind at the age of 22 and led to a premature death at the age of 33, de la Cruz Mena's special talent allowed him to participate in composing the Nicaraguan national anthem. The committee is honoring his legacy by sharing his story and music with Angelinos.

To increase appreciation for Nicaraguan music and culture, the committee successfully encouraged the City of Los Angeles and the State of California to officially recognize May 3rd as "Dia del Nicaraguense" (Nicaraguan Day). The Nicaraguan Cultural Committee celebrated this distinct recognition on May 4 by hosting the first Nicaraguan Folklore Festival in Pico Union where many Americans of Nicaraguan descent have lived since the 1980s. The festival highlighted special Nicaraguan traditions and featured artisan crafts from Nicaragua. To foster cultural exchange, the committee plans to host the Nicaraguan Folklore Festival annually.

I wish the Nicaraguan Cultural Committee "Jose de la Cruz Mena" continued success in its efforts to preserve and highlight Nicaraguan traditions!

IN MEMORY OF NEVIN WHITESIDE,
JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this month Lexington County recognized the service of Nevin Whiteside, Jr., as a proud Navy veteran of the Korean War. The following obituary was provided by Caughman-Harmon funeral Home, Lexington Chapel.

Funeral services for Nevin "Neb" William Whiteside, Jr., 84, of Lexington, will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, May 2, 2014 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, with interment in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends on Thursday, May 1, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00

p.m. at Caughman-Harman Funeral Home, Lexington Chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 1130 St. Peter's Church Rd., Lexington, SC 29072. Mr. Whiteside was born November 28, 1929 in Leesville, SC and passed away on April 30, 2014. He was the son of the late Nevin William Whiteside and Bertie Earle Whiteside. Mr. Whiteside served our country in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He retired from Kenan Transportation. He was a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, VFW and Lexington Masonic Lodge 152. He loved to ride his Harley-Davidson and enjoyed working in the yard and cleaning his car. Mr. Whiteside is survived by his wife, Barbara "Bobbie" Sox Whiteside, of Lexington; sons, Stan and Wayne Whiteside of Lexington; daughter, Kim (Tim) French of Lexington; grandchildren, Lauren, Andrew, and Brandon Whiteside, Ashley (Bower) Butler and Malia and Devin French; great-grandchildren, Reece and Paxton Butler; sister, Doris Goff of Saluda and man's best friend "Bandit", (Poppy's Lil' Buddy). He is predeceased by his parents and his brother Horace Whiteside.

HONORING THE LIFE OF A MINNESOTA LEGEND: CONGRESSMAN
JAMES L. OBERSTAR

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on May 3, 2014, our former House colleague and dear friend, Chairman Jim Oberstar, passed away. Congressman Oberstar served Minnesota and the families of the 8th Congressional District from 1975 to 2011, including four years as chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Prior to being elected, Jim served in the U.S. House for eleven years as a senior staff member on the Public Works Committee.

When I arrived in Congress in 2001, Jim Oberstar was the "dean" of our Minnesota congressional delegation. He was like a big brother to me. A brilliant legislator and a profoundly gifted man, Jim was also a very kind man, a true gentleman with a huge heart and a hearty laugh.

When I think of Jim and the ten years we served together, I remember a man who loved his family and made sure I always saw the latest photos of his grandchildren. He loved his work as a national leader and true expert on transportation and infrastructure issues. And, Jim Oberstar loved Minnesota and representing northern Minnesota's families in the House of Representatives.

Throughout his career Jim's commitment to improving America's transportation system saved thousands of lives, kept millions of Americans on the job, and strengthened Minnesota's and our nation's economy. During his tenure as chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Jim Oberstar was one of the most powerful men in America. He moved legislation and with his work on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Jim Oberstar ensured millions of Americans stayed on the job and thousands of infrastructure projects were completed across our country.

One transportation project in my congressional district that Jim Oberstar supported and helped to make a reality was the restoration of St. Paul's Union Depot. This marvelous train depot is now open for Amtrak service and will soon be open for transit commuters. Jim loved the grandeur of the train station and the idea of preserving the past as a means of investing in the future.

During his career Jim Oberstar took thousands of votes and was an eloquent and effective champion for dozens of causes, including adoption, cancer research, and human rights. There are two instances that I remember vividly when Jim's voice, his vote, and his strength made a lasting impact on Minnesotans. In 2002, during the debate on whether to authorize military action in Iraq, Jim was a strong voice against the war in Iraq. I was proud to stand with Jim and Rep. Martin Sabo as the members of the Minnesota House delegation voting to oppose authorizing military action in Iraq.

The other issue that defined Jim Oberstar for me was his tremendous work for Minnesota following the collapse of the I-35W Bridge in Minneapolis on August 1, 2007. As the chairman of the Transportation Committee, Jim was in the right place at the right time to respond to this terrible tragedy. He moved with incredible speed to draft legislation and get it passed on the House floor within forty-eight hours of the collapse. The bill was signed into law on August 6th—less than one week after the disaster. I have no doubt in my mind had that disaster happened in any other state Jim Oberstar would have reacted in exactly the same manner.

At his funeral, Jim's daughters and son spoke lovingly and eloquently about their father. Most of us knew Jim Oberstar was a powerful Member of Congress, but he was also a committed father and a very good man. He cared about working people, the pursuit of social justice, and his Catholic faith. He loved cycling and made his passion for bicycles into national policy that Americans in every corner of this country take advantage of everyday.

I wish to extend my sincere condolences to Jim's wife, Jean, and his children—Noelle Tower, Monica Weber, Annie Oberstar, and Ted Link-Oberstar, as well as all of Jim's grandchildren.

My heartfelt condolences also go out to Jim's congressional family which includes the many dedicated and loyal staff in his Minnesota and Washington congressional offices and his Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff. The hard work and professionalism of Jim's staff was always evident and I know Jim was very proud of them.

Finally, Jim's long-time chief-of-staff, Bill Richard, spent decades by his side and was essential to Jim's success. I also want to extend my sympathies to Bill for the loss of his friend.

I will always remember Jim as a friend, a mentor, and a public servant of epic stature. Most of all, Jim Oberstar was a truly wonderful man who lived not only a full life, but a life filled with joy and compassion.

WATER RESOURCES REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I submit a list of supporters for H.R. 3080: the Water Resources Reform and Development Act.

America's Cement Manufacturers, American Gas Association, American Association of Port Authorities, American Council of Engineering Companies, American Concrete Pavement Association, American Concrete Pipe Association, American Concrete Pumping Association, American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association, American Farm Bureau Federation, American Iron and Steel Institute, American Public Power Association, American Public Works Association, American Road and Transportation Builders Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Soybean Association, American Waterways Operators, Arkansas Waterways Commission, Associated Equipment Distributors, Associated General Contractors of America, Association of California Water Agencies, Association of Equipment Manufacturers, Association of State Dam Safety Officials, Big River Coalition, California State Assembly, CH2M HILL, City and Port of Los Angeles, City of Sacramento, Edison Electric Institute, Everglades Foundation, Everglades Trust, Friends of the North Natomas Library, Great Lakes Maritime Task Force, Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Fairness Coalition, Heritage Park Owners Association, Hilton Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort, International Union of Operating Engineers, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, Lake Carriers Association, LiUNA, National Asphalt Pavement Association, National Association of Clean Water Agencies, National Association of Flood & Stormwater Management Agencies, National Association of Home Builders, National Association of Manufacturers, National Committee on Levee Safety, National Governor's Association, National League of Cities, National Precast Concrete Association, National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, National Rural Water Association, National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association, National Utilities Contractor Association, National Waterways Conference, Natomas Chamber of Commerce, Natomas Charter School, Natomas Community Association, Natomas Unified School District, Nature Conservancy, North Natomas Little League, Sabine Neches Navigation District, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency, Texas Department of Transportation, Tennessee River Valley Association, Transportation Construction Coalition, Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO, Portland Cement Association, United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters, United States Society on Dams, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Valley View Acres Community Association, Vinyl Institute, Water Infrastructure Network, Water Resource Coalition, Waterways Council, Inc., Westlake Master Association, Witter Ranch Community Alliance.

MEDIA IGNORES THAT THE ADMINISTRATION KNEW ABOUT VA PROBLEMS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, America's brave men and women in uniform come home from military service only to find severe wait times to receive the medical care they have earned.

Recent reports claim that Veteran Affairs officials in various states, including my home state of Texas, have falsified medical appointment data to conceal these long wait times.

This is dishonest, deceptive, and harmful to veterans.

But ignored for weeks by the liberal national media is that the Obama Administration has long known about these extensive wait times.

According to documents received by the Washington Times, the Bush Administration warned the Obama Administration about the prolonged wait times for our veterans in 2008—six years ago.

But you wouldn't know this if you watched NBC or ABC. Or read many media publications.

The media owes it to the American people, and to our veterans, to give them all the facts.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. GUS. M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment, which would allow disabled veterans with service connected permanent disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft on a space-available basis.

The Space-Available program is administered by the Department of Defense (DOD), which allows active duty service members, their families, retirees and certain other individuals to fill empty seats on DOD flights.

Unfortunately, veterans who are 100 percent disabled do not qualify to participate in this program. My amendment will correct this unintentional oversight and provide equality to service members who were severely injured while serving their country honorably.

Had they not been medically discharged with a service connected disability in the line of duty, these veterans were likely to have served until retirement. At no fault of their own, these deserving individuals did not have the opportunity to continue their military careers. It is an injustice that they would be penalized from this benefit due to their bravery and valor.

I would also like to note that under current DOD guidelines for Air Transportation Eligibility, it states, "Every effort shall be made to transport passengers with disabilities who are otherwise eligible to travel. Passenger service personnel and crew members shall provide assistance in loading, seating, and unloading the disabled passenger." There is already guidance in place to address passengers with disabilities, and my amendment will codify our commitment for their sacrifice.

This initiative has strong bi-partisan support, which has over 230 current cosponsors to the stand alone bill I introduced, H.R. 164. Moreover, this initiative has support in the Senate with the companion bill S. 346 offered by Senator JON TESTER from Montana.

While I was very pleased to see my amendment accepted in last year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2014, it was unfortunate it was not accepted in the Senate process during consideration for the bill's passage.

The National Federation of the Blind has been very active in both the House and the Senate in its advocacy for our nations' disabled veterans. I submit a support letter for this amendment by the National Federation of the Blind (NFB).

While active duty members and their families will remain the primary beneficiaries of this program in order to assist them with the rigors of military life, my amendment simply allows these veterans the opportunity to fill available seats, a benefit I believe they have earned through their personal sacrifice.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to end the inequality for our nation's wounded warriors by voting in favor of my amendment. I thank the committees and their staff for their assistance through this process

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND,
Baltimore, MD, May 19, 2014.

Subject: Support for H.R. 164

Hon. GUS M. BILIRAKIS,
House of Representatives, 2313 Rayburn House
Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BILIRAKIS: The National Federation of the Blind is the Nation's oldest and largest consumer group of blind Americans. We are composed of blind individuals who come from many different backgrounds, and we work to ensure that the concerns of all blind Americans are met.

Included in our organization is the National Association of Blind Veterans. Recently these men and women who served our country brought to our attention a policy that we believe needs to be changed. The Space Available program is a program that allows a number of military personnel to fly on military transport planes if there is space remaining. This may include members of the Active Military, Family members of the Active Military, some components of Reserve Forces, individuals who are responding to emergency situations, such as the Red Cross, and retirees. We believe that individuals who have become disabled in the service of our country should be allowed to participate in this program.

Shortly after being made aware of this issue by blinded veterans, we learned that you introduced legislation to solve this problem in the last Congress. We are pleased that you reintroduced this legislation, H.R. 164, early in this session of Congress. The National Federation of the Blind stands firmly in support of this legislation, and will dedicate our support and our efforts to ensure its passage in this session of Congress.

Last June, thanks to your leadership, the United States House of Representatives

voted to include this language in the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act. Unfortunately our Senate companion amendment was not allowed to be considered during Senate consideration in December. We appreciate the support shown by the House of Representatives, and urge the House to continue to fight for Service Disabled Veterans, by joining with you to include this language in the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act.

We thank you for your leadership to support these men and women who have given service to defend our rights, and we now join with you to defend their rights to participate in the Space Available program.

JOHN G. PARÉ, JR.,
Executive Director for
Advocacy and Policy.

RECOGNITION OF MCAA HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Manatee Community Action Agency's (MCAA) Head Start and Early Head Start programs that change lives by helping to prepare children in my Congressional District for school.

MCAA's Head Start programs started in the summer of 1965 with 60 children. Today there are 630 children enrolled in eight locations throughout Manatee County, including 65 children with special needs. More than 3,000 children have participated in the programs since its inception.

The Head Start program serves children from age 3 to 5 and partners with parents and families to ensure continuity of positive growth and development at home and school.

Early Head Start serves children from birth to age 3, pregnant women and their families. MCAA provides very young children with an environment that stimulates them and motivates them to use all of their senses.

Furthermore, 100 percent of the children enrolled in MCAA's early learning programs during the 2012–2013 school year were provided with continuous access to healthcare, and were up to date on age-appropriate preventive and primary health care and immunizations.

MCAA's Head Start and Early Head Start students scored high marks in meeting school readiness and educational goals. On goal assessments, the students scored in the upper 90 percent range in the areas of physical health status and knowledge, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, self-concept, self-regulation, and emotional and behavioral health.

By focusing on the whole child—mental, physical, emotional and social well-being—MCAA's Head Start and Early Head Start programs prepare the children of Manatee County for a lifetime of educational success.

HONORING THE 2014 PLANO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS' TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Plano Independent School Districts' 2014 Teacher of the Year Nominees. These outstanding educators are motivating and engaging our children to become lifelong learners and equip them with the tools to succeed.

Education is one of the fundamental building blocks of a person's future and a successful nation. Our teachers deserve to be celebrated for their service to the next generation of leaders. I commend you all for your hard work, dedication to your students, and commitment to excellence in education.

These 72 individuals were nominated by their peers at their respective schools. This is a true testament to their inspirational impact on not only their students but their fellow teachers.

These great teachers mold young dreams; they spark a flame for a student to study liberal arts or pursue a career in science or even push an athlete to the next level. They are the guardian of dreams for the student who wants to be the first in their family to attend and graduate college, and it is their constant, gentle approach that keeps these young leaders on the path to success. It is your encouragement, time, and tireless efforts that help make a young person's dreams of obtaining a higher education, starting a business, or serving in the U.S. military a reality. It is extraordinary teachers like you that make our community, our country and the world a better place.

It is for these reasons and countless more that I thank you all for your continued efforts in giving our students an exemplary, top-notch education.

I look forward to learning of the future successes of the nationally recognized Plano Independent School Districts 7,000 employees, hundreds of teachers, and 55,000+ students.

God Bless you and I salute you.

A record of each nominee's name and school they serve is listed below.

Heather Schmitt—Beaty, Kristi Vest—Head Start, Bethany Bowers—Isaacs, Sarah Senne—Pearson, Karen Christensen—Alldridge, Mindy Schreiber—Andrews, Chrystal Litman—Barksdale, Penny Beazley—Barron, Connie Gillmore—Bethany, Nora Davis—Beverly, Ashley Dantzler—Bogges, Amy Chilcutt—Brinker, Laura Teague—Carlisle, Jennifer Collins—Centennial, Meagan Middlebrooks—Christie, Joanne Curley—Daffron, Erin Graham—Davis, Lauren Shaw—Dooley, Andrew Wick—Forman, Emily Hollingsworth—Gulledge, Lode Lyon—Haggard, Linda Culbreth—Harrington, Cyndy Baltzley—Haun, Tiffany Samuel—Hedgcoxe, Michele Rollins—Hickey, Patrick Quinlan—Hightower, Donna Hartman—Huffman, Lori Turnbull—Hughston, Kelly Hamilton—Hunt, Shelly Arthur—Jackson, Kristin Glasscock—Mathews, Julie Walker—McCall, Leigh Adams—Meadows, Kaitlin Eckstein—Memorial, Debbie LaChey—Mendenhall, Lacy Watson—Miller, Laura

Arellano—Mitchell, Rebecca Bailey—Rasor, Christi Burkle—Saigling, Jessica Sides—Schell, Jana Martin—Shepard, Kari Tolle—Sigler, Megan Bruce—Skaggs, Whitney Pitzer—Stinson, Casey Howell—Thomas, Debbie Little—Weatherford, Stacy Lawrence—Wells, Kim Ramirez—Wyatt, Ashley Brown—Bird Center, Kathleen Farquhar—Armstrong, Mark Caspersen—Bowman, Kathleen Zeier—Carpenter, Anna Vines—Frankford, Eric Feldman—Haggard, Karen Home—Hendrick, Nick Seibert—Murphy, Bonny Pan-Otto, Neelima Singh—Renner, Cindy Woolum—Rice, Kimberley Ahrens—Robinson, Azam Anet—Schimelpfenig, Kennitra Robertson—Wilson, Karen Stanton—Clark, David Jones—Jasper, Sarah Fischer—McMillen, Joshua Thompson—Shepton, Fred Sampson—Vines, Christine Miller—Williams, Megan Walters—Academy, Daniel Knight—Plano East, Terry Eder—Plano Senior, Barbara Nelson—Plano West.

HONORING CHELAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES ADAM MUSGROVE AND RYAN MOODY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Chelan County Sheriffs Deputies Adam Musgrove and Ryan Moody. Deputies Musgrove and Moody were awarded the highest law enforcement honor in Washington State, the Law Enforcement Medal of Honor for meritorious conduct.

Like the other officers who received medals of honor that day, Deputies Musgrove and Moody are accustomed to running toward danger instead of away. In this instance, their heroic actions not only put themselves at risk but resulted in a saved life when they rescued a man from burning building in September 2013. I am honored to call them both my constituents and to serve on their behalf in Congress.

The award was presented on Friday May 2, 2014 by Governor Jay Inslee and Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson. They were two of only eleven to receive this prestigious honor.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Chelan County Sheriffs Deputies Adam Musgrove and Ryan Moody, and I thank them for all they have given back to the people of Washington State. Thank you.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Chair, I would like to thank Chairman MCKEON and the Mem-

bers of the House Armed Services Committee for the Committee's work on the Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act. As the Chairman of the House Small Business Committee, I know very well that efforts of this magnitude take leadership, thoughtfulness and compromise. I support the final bill, and thank the Committee for continuing to make our Nation's security a top priority.

I want to draw attention to a key priority that the Committee helped address this year. Earlier this year, United States Navy offered to the Committee its "unfunded priority" request of additional EA-18G Growlers, an electronic attack aircraft. Specifically, the Navy Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Admiral Jonathan Greenert testified that there is an emerging requirement for more electronic attack, and he asked for 22 Growlers. The Growler is the only aircraft that can provide the full spectrum electronic attack that are needed for future operations.

In addition to a specific warfighting capability that the Growler provides, the men and women that work on the aircraft are part of America's aerospace industry that has undergone significant change over the last several decades. A vital part of this industry are the small businesses that have kept our military force on the cutting edge, armed with technologies and programs no other nation can match. The production of the Growler is no exception to this rule as there are 340 small businesses that are located across 32 states, including in my home state of Missouri, which support the program.

At a time when the small business sector is regaining its footing in the recovering economy, there should be a way to preserve the military industrial base. This bill supports that effort by adding 5 Growlers above the President's Budget Request and encouraging the Navy to keep the manufacturing line open. Closing the line would not only upend many small businesses that sustain the program, but would also lead to less competition and fewer innovative technology breakthroughs in tactical aviation. The Committee bill represents a good first step at meeting the dual needs of the Navy's requirements and the defense industrial base.

As the Fiscal Year 2015 bills move through the process, I look forward to working with the Committee to meet the needs of the warfighter and to protect the small businesses interests in our Nation.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,485,062,209,497.43. We've added \$6,858,185,160,583.35 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING ARMED FORCES DAY

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Armed Forces Day, which took place on May 17th. We have set this day aside to recognize the men and women of our armed forces since Armed Forces Day was established by President Harry Truman in 1949.

All Americans should take time to honor the sacrifices of our people in uniform serving in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard around the world. They put their lives at risk to protect us, to rescue us, and to assure our freedom and that of our allies.

Our service members endure harsh and often life-threatening conditions, long hours, and extended periods away from their families for the best reason of all—because their country asked them to. I urge Americans to thank members of the armed forces for their service when they see them in the community, to help their families when they are deployed, and to hire them when they leave the service and are coming back into our communities as veterans.

CONGRATULATING THE TELACU EDUCATION FOUNDATION ON THEIR 31ST ANNUAL BUILDING THE DREAM GALA

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the TELACU Education Foundation, a non-profit organization based in my 40th Congressional District. The Foundation has been transforming educational outcomes for thousands of Latino students over more than three decades.

TELACU, The East Los Angeles Community Union, is a pioneer in empowering and revitalizing communities in our great State of California and throughout our Nation. More than 30 years ago, in response to crisis-level dropout rates for Latino students in college, TELACU created the TELACU Education Foundation. Working in partnership with a vast network of colleges, universities, corporations, and individuals, the TELACU Education Foundation has awarded millions of dollars in scholarships to thousands of deserving students.

As the centerpiece of the Foundation, the College Success Program annually provides scholarships to 500 college and graduate students who are the first in their families to access higher education. Realizing that financial resources alone cannot fully meet these students' needs, the program provides these scholars with comprehensive academic and career guidance to ensure that they graduate.

The Foundation also serves an additional 1,600 middle and high school students, nursing school students, and veterans. Through comprehensive educational programs, these scholars are not only inspired to pursue higher education, but are also equipped to meet the

rigorous expectations of college. As a result, 99% of TELACU's high school students have earned their high school diplomas and continued on to pursue post-secondary education, and 99% of TELACU college students have earned, at minimum, a bachelor's degree.

TELACU Scholars are recruited from the poorest neighborhoods in Southern California, Chicago, Texas, and New York. In many of these neighborhoods, young African Americans and Latinos are more likely to be arrested by their 18th birthday than to graduate high school. Yet year after year, TELACU Scholars have proven that it doesn't matter where you were born, what the color of your skin is, or what language you speak at home—if you study and work hard, you can become anything you want to be in our great United States of America.

And hard work is what TELACU Scholars are all about. Scholars like Priscila Papias leverage all the resources provided by the TELACU Education Foundation to advance not only themselves and their educations, but their communities as well. As part of the Foundation's internship program, Priscila partnered with local universities, food banks, and farmer's markets to help provide regular nutritional screenings and high-quality nutritional care for residents of TELACU's senior housing complexes. I thank Priscila Papias and all of her fellow TELACU Scholars for their hard work and contributions to our communities.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the thousands of students they have served, empowered, and advanced to achieve self-sufficiency, I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing David and Priscila Lizárraga for their exemplary leadership and commendable efforts to support our young people and our communities, and wish them and the TELACU Education Foundation many years of continued success ahead.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ALBIVORY
"BIB" HESTER CORLEY 100
YEARS YOUNG ON MAY 23RD, 2014

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to pay tribute on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to Mrs. Albivory Hester Corley, who is known as Bib to many and will be 100 years of age on May 23rd. Bib was born in Mississippi at a time when situations and circumstances were quite different in this country. Armed with a great desire to acquire higher education, she left the family farm and attended Jackson College, (currently known as Jackson State University) and Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee. After college she returned to her roots in Mississippi and taught at the Pilgrim Rest School. After teaching for a number of years, Bib decided that it was time to pursue greater opportunities and moved to Chicago, like many other African Americans who were born in Mississippi. In 1952, she began working at the Cook County Probate Court and eventually became the first African American to become Probate Clerk, and worked for the Probate Court for thirty-seven years during the tenure of nine governors and six mayors. Chi-

cago brought Bib not only success in her career, but also success in finding her soul-mate. It was in Chicago that Bib met her husband Jimmy Corley, whom she married in 1956.

Bib and Jimmy shared a strong faith in God and joined the outstanding Grant Memorial AME Church where they were both active members until Jimmy's passing in 1982. Bib remains active in the church and considers herself truly blessed for all the years of life that God has given her.

Even in retirement, Mrs. Corley is not slowing down. She remains very active, traveling all over the world sharing her story and inspiring others. As a Member of the US House of Representatives, I take delight in recognizing a truly remarkable woman and thank her for all the contributions she has made to humankind.

HONORING MIKE MONTGOMERY ON
HIS RETIREMENT AS ELEMEN-
TARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL IN
KNOXVILLE, IOWA

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend Mike Montgomery on his retirement as an elementary school principal for the Knoxville Community School District. Mike was my best friend growing up in Brooklyn and has dedicated his life to the education of Iowa children.

Mike earned his master's degree in school administration from Drake University and his bachelor's degree in elementary education from Central College. For 26 years Mike has served as a principal in the Knoxville Community School District. At Knoxville, he has implemented many successful education programs including all day every day kindergarten, 4 year old voluntary pre-school, and a system of support and professional learning communities for teachers and students.

Mike has been a strong leader and mentor for the students and faculty in Knoxville. He interacts with students on a daily basis eating lunch with them and playing sports with them. Mike has also successfully built strong relationships with his staff and has personally hired many of the elementary school teachers in Knoxville. He has twice been nominated for Knoxville Community Educator of the Year. He has been a strong leader and champion for education throughout his career and has devoted his life to improving the lives of children.

"Mr. Montgomery" has been a powerful positive role model in the lives of thousands of Iowa students, including my own nieces. His energy and enthusiasm inspire us to put students first and make education a lifelong experience. I'm very proud of Mike, and honored to call him my friend. I congratulate him on his retirement and I wish him, his wife Mary, and the rest of his family all of the best as he moves on to his next adventure.

RECOGNIZING THE LOS BANOS
BASQUE CLUB

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Los Banos Basque Club for their 50th anniversary. From putting on the annual picnic to volunteering with the dance group and participating in various other club events, the Los Banos Basque Club's 50 years of proud history can be directly attributed to the tireless participation of all of its members.

The Basques lived in the Los Banos area before California joined the United States in 1848. Many of the early Basques in this area were sheepherders, while others worked as ranchers, miners, and laborers. Throughout the late 1800's and early 1900's, they organized and formed a vibrant and cohesive community. Many Basques are of Catholic heritage, and Basques in the Los Banos area often gathered to celebrate Baptisms, First Holy Communions, and weddings in large gatherings.

The most common celebration to bring together the Basque people of the Los Banos area was a picnic, which the Basques began holding in 1886. The early picnics were an occasion to reunite old friends and families and to celebrate Basque culture. In order to better organize the Basques in the Los Banos area and to organize and coordinate an annual picnic, a group of Basques formed the Los Banos Basque Club. The Club also helped preserve the Basque culture and heritage in Central California.

At the first meeting, the Club voted to hold an annual picnic on the third Sunday of every May, and the first annual Los Banos Basque Picnic was held that same year. Additionally, the Club began a dance group, where adults would come together to teach the children Basque customs and traditions, including the traditional Basque dances.

This year marks the 50th year of the Los Banos Basque Club's existence and is similarly the 50th annual picnic of the Club. For the past 50 years, the annual picnic has maintained the same schedule of events, including a Catholic Mass, a BBQ Lamb Chop lunch, Basque dancing demonstrations, traditional competitions like wood chopping, weight carrying, or soka tira, music, public dancing, and a chorizo BBQ.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Los Banos Basque Club for their 50 successful years. With their strong ties to their roots, their desire to preserve Basque traditions, and their pride of being called a Basque, the Los Banos Basque Club hopes to carry on its traditional picnics far into the future.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON NA-
TIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Chair, I ask that the following exchange of letters be included as part of the RECORD during consideration of H.R. 4435:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOV-
ERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD "BUCK" McKEON,
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House
of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning the bill H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. There are certain provisions in the legislation which fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive this committee's right to sequential referral. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 4435 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2014.

Hon. DARRELL ISSA,
*Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Govern-
ment Reform, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I agree that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON,
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House
of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN McKEON: I am writing to you concerning the bill H.R. 4435, the Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Author-
ization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. There are certain provisions in the legislation which

fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Small Business pursuant to Rule X(q) of the House of Representatives.

In the interest of permitting the Committee on Armed Services to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive the right of the Committee on Small Business to sequential referral. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee on Small Business does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X(q) jurisdiction, including future bills that the Committee on Armed Services will consider. I request that you urge the Speaker to appoint members of this Committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 4435 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this issue and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

SAM GRAVES,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2014.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
*Chairman, Committee on Small Business, House
of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I agree that the Committee on Small Business has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Small Business is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON,
Chairman.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD "BUCK" McKEON,
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House
of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. McKEON: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. This legislation contains subject matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. However, in order to expedite jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. However, in order to expedite floor consideration of this important legislation, the committee waives consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology takes this action only with the understanding that the committee's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered.

The committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any conference on this legislation and requests your support if such a request is made. Finally, I would appreciate your including this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of

H.R. 4435 on the House Floor. Thank you for your attention in these matters.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
*Chairman, Committee on Science,
Space, and Technology.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2014.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
*Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I agree that the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REP-
RESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON,
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House
of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN McKEON: I write concerning H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, as amended. There are certain provisions in the legislation that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

However, in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill does not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I request you urge the Speaker to name members of the Committee to any conference committee named to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the committee report on H.R. 4435 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2014.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
*Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I agree that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a

sequential referral, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,
Chairman.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION
FOR UNITED STATES ARMY COM-
MAND SERGEANT MAJOR MAR-
TIN R. BARRERAS

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Command Sergeant Major Martin R. Barreras, who died on May 12, 2014 from wounds he suffered on May 6 when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire in Harat Province, Afghanistan. He leaves behind his mother, father, brother, two children, a grandson, and numerous friends.

Born in New Mexico, Command Sergeant Major Barreras spent most of his childhood in Tucson, Arizona. He attended Sunnyside High School before joining the military. In his last assignment of his long military career, he was assigned as the highest-ranking enlisted member of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team based in Fort Bliss, Texas.

Command Sergeant Major Barreras was on his sixth deployment to Afghanistan, after serving 29 honorable years defending our country in both the Army and Marine Corps.

Command Sergeant Major Barreras was a great soldier. Over his career he earned fifty awards and distinctions including a Bronze Star with valor and two Purple Hearts. However, his illustrious career depicted through his medals will not be the only thing to highlight his service to our country. The men and women he lead and fought with will always remember his selflessness and war fighting spirit that will undoubtedly be passed on for generations to come.

As an Army Ranger he helped rescue former Prisoner of War Jessica Lynch from an Iraqi hospital in 2003. Command Sergeant Major Barreras was the leader of the Army battalion that conducted the successful rescue of Lynch. He personally handed Lynch to another soldier to transfer her to the helicopter that evacuated her from the area. Without any hesitation, he then led the fight against multiple attacks in order to retrieve all 9 bodies of the other U.S. soldiers missing in action.

We remember Command Sergeant Major Barreras and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his family. I am heart-sick for their loss and my words cannot offer adequate consolation.

Everyone in our great country owes Command Sergeant Major Barreras and his family a debt of gratitude for his selfless sacrifice and courage. It is vital that we keep our men and women in uniform who are in harm's way in our thoughts and prayers. I call on my fellow colleagues and all Americans to remember, on this Memorial Day weekend, Command Sergeant Major Barrens and his fellow fallen comrades—those who have paid the ultimate price.

USA FREEDOM ACT

HON. SUSAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor of the USA Freedom Act, I am disappointed that I cannot support this bill as it is considered on the floor today.

Like many Americans, I was shocked to learn about the National Security Agency's domestic spying program that was sweeping up the private communications records of millions of innocent Americans. It goes against American values and our Constitution. That's why two weeks ago I was pleased to join my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee in unanimously supporting the USA Freedom Act as it passed out of the committee.

I believed that the compromise, while far from perfect, would help rebuild the public trust in government by ending bulk collection, assuring that government surveillance authorities are rule-bound, narrowly tailored, transparent and subject to oversight, all while ensuring that the nation's intelligence community can protect national security.

Unfortunately, since then, negotiations with the Administration have resulted in this bill moving in the wrong direction. While I believe that the intent of this bill is to end bulk collection and I am glad that there is widespread agreement that Congress must act to end bulk collection, I am not convinced the bill effectively achieves this. The weakened definition of "specific selection term" must be addressed as this bill moves forward in order to provide absolute certainty that the legislative language achieves this intent, and that the bill's ban on bulk collection is air-tight. Today's bill simply fall short of what is needed to provide a clear guarantee to the public that the massive data collection by the NSA will be put to a full stop.

I appreciate the efforts of the Committees and Leadership to support greater transparency in the bill. The transparency reporting amendment that I offered in the Judiciary Committee that is included in the bill will allow companies to disclose information regarding the number and nature of government demands for user information. However, the new manager's amendment that we are considering on the House floor today has weakened this provision by, for example, adding a two-year delay that prohibits companies from issuing transparency reports for new products or services. I offered several amendments to the Rules Committee to address my concerns with the weakened language in the manager's amendment, but none of these amendments were given an opportunity for debate or a vote on the House floor.

I thank the Committees and the Leadership for their work to move this important conversation forward, but I simply cannot support the bill in its current form.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF COMMANDER ROBERT JAMES FLYNN, USN RETIRED

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on May 15, 2014, Northwest Florida and our Nation lost a warrior—Commander Robert James Flynn, United States Navy, Retired. Commander Flynn honorably served our country as a member of the Armed Forces for twenty-seven years, and I am humbled to rise and pay tribute to his life and his unwavering devotion to God and country.

Hailing from La Crosse, Wisconsin, Commander Flynn studied pre-law at the University of Minnesota until 1958 when he entered the Naval Aviation Cadet Program. Within two years, he became a Naval Flight Officer and then trained as a bombardier/navigator. On August 21, 1967, his life took a tragic turn when his A-6 aircraft, which launched from the USS *Constellation*, was shot down over North Vietnam. Commander Flynn spent the next five and a half years of his life in a Chinese prison. According to the POW Network, his unimaginable 2,030 days in solitary confinement makes it the longest amount of time a member of the U.S. Armed Forces served in solitary confinement. Commander Flynn was released on March 15, 1973.

Commander Flynn was proud to say that his captors called him "one of the most reactionary prisoners in their history." His relentless strength and courage were hallmarks of both his life and career, and it was his strong faith in God, his love for his family, and his commitment to duty, honor, and country that even in the darkest of times he held on and survived. His final assignment as Director of Aviation Warfare Training with Chief of Naval Education and Training at Naval Air Station Pensacola brought Commander Flynn back home to his beloved Northwest Florida. In 1985, he retired from the Navy after 71 missions. Throughout his distinguished Naval Career, Commander Flynn earned and was bestowed multiple honors including the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, and Prisoner of War Medal.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the life and service of an American hero and decorated warrior. Our Nation, the Northwest Florida community, and countless others will miss Commander Flynn's unwavering perseverance and optimism, but his legacy will endure for years to come. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our most sincere condolences to his wife, Kathy; their two children, Elizabeth and Robert; and the entire Flynn family.

TRIBUTE TO CARRYE B. BROWN

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true trail blazer, Carrye B. Brown, on the 20th anniversary of her appointment as our nation's first female and first African American U.S. Fire Administrator. A D.C.

resident most of her life, Mrs. Brown used her skills and personality to work with Federal agencies, Congress and the fire service community to achieve the goal of a safer America.

As a congressional staffer in 1982, Mrs. Brown successfully coordinated the effort to continue the U.S. Fire Administration after its recommended elimination. Also, Mrs. Brown was instrumental in the passage of many important pieces of legislation, including the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act, the Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990, and the Fire Administration Authorization Act of 1992, which led to the establishment of the "National Fallen Firefighters Foundation".

President William J. Clinton and a parade of witnesses testified on her behalf 20 years ago at her nomination hearing. I was proud to testify at her hearing myself to assist her in making history as the first female African American U.S. fire administrator. As U.S. Fire Administrator, her management innovations included the development of the first complete and transparent budget accountability system, and the establishment of a fair and equitable pay and promotion policy. With her extensive background as a congressional staffer, she developed strong justifications for the largest budget increase in the 25-year history of the agency. Under her strong leadership, the agency implemented the first fire safety program targeting groups at the highest risk of fire.

Mrs. Brown has traveled widely to speak on women becoming successful in government, women as leaders and managers in non-traditional positions, and the joys and perils of a political appointee. After retiring from the Federal government, she worked for over a decade as a teacher and tutor for students with learning differences in Washington, D.C. Her husband Larry and herself, have three children and one grandson. Our nation is better because of Mrs. Brown.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Mrs. Carrye B. Brown for her dedicated public service and her many accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, due to a family obligation, I was unable to vote in the House on Wednesday, May 21st, therefore I am not recorded as voting. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: rollcall No. 223, I would have voted "nay"; rollcall No. 224, I would have voted "nay"; rollcall No. 225, I would have voted "no"; rollcall No. 226, I would have voted "no"; rollcall No. 227, I would have voted "aye"; rollcall No. 228, I would have voted "yea"; rollcall No. 229, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 4031, the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014, of which I was an original co-sponsor.

TRIBUTE TO HARVEY DOUMA

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Harvey Douma, who has devoted his life to Ripon, California and is being honored with the Harvey Douma Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ripon Rotary Club. The club created this award to recognize and honor a Rotary member who has made immeasurable contributions to the club and named it after a charter member. Harvey will be the first recipient.

In 1918, Harvey Douma arrived in Ripon when he was only a year and a half of age. The family made the trip from Northern Michigan in their seven passenger car. The clutch went out on the trip and they took the train for the remainder of their journey. They arrived in Lathrop on November 17, where they waited, for eight hours, to transfer to another train that would take them to the Ripon, California.

When he came of age, Harvey enlisted in the Merchant Marines. He attended basic training on Catalina Island during World War II. His first duty station assignment was to a troop transport on a ship that was in dry dock at San Pedro, California.

After completing his service to his country, he returned to Ripon. He joined the Ripon Police Department, where he was a member for 31 years. Harvey served as Chief of Police from October 1, 1963 to May 26, 1982, which is the longest tenure of any police chief in Ripon history.

In 1968, at the 6th Annual Ripon Almond Blossom Festival, the Ripon Chamber of Commerce dedicated the festival to salute local law enforcement with emphasis to be placed on "Operation Crime Stop". They named Harvey as the Grand Marshal of the parade. He also had the honor of serving as Grand Marshal of Ripon High School's Centennial Parade & Celebration. As a 1935 Ripon High School graduate, he is the oldest living alumnus.

As one that gives back to his community, he is a member of several community organizations. As a charter member of the Ripon Rotary Club, he has earned 2 Paul Harris Awards. In addition, he is a charter member of Ripon's Historical Society, life member of the Chamber of Commerce and served as President in 1970; he has been a member of the Safety Council for over 55 years. When he is not volunteering his time, he enjoys fishing, hunting and travel.

In 1939, Harvey married Etta Mae Ramsey. They were married for 58 years until her death in 1997. Their union produced three children; Linda Perrando, Donna Vincelet Brundy, and Donald Douma. They have 6 grandchildren: Diane Wong, Greg & Roger Vincelet; Mike & Mark Perrando; Stacey Cordoba & Dorine Hatcher and 7 great-grandchildren: Lyndsey & Kyle Wong; Megan Vincelet Van Ruiten & Cody Vincelet; Jordyn & Jayse Vincelet; Julia Hatcher, Deceased.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating with the Ripon Rotary Club in honoring Harvey Douma with the Harvey Douma Lifetime Achievement Award. He is a man who dedicated numerous years of selfless service to the betterment of our community.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, today I was proud to vote to approve H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2015. The NDAA is the key mechanism to provide necessary authorities and funding for America's military.

Even in an era of constrained taxpayer resources, it is essential that we find ways to ensure our military has the funding necessary to carry out its mission. The FY15 NDAA provides a responsible fiscal balance and prioritizes the critical tools our troops need to maintain and perform as the finest fighting force in the world. The bill also provides our warfighters, and their families, with the support and care that we have promised them.

One area that was minimally addressed was the size and growth of the civilian workforce at the Department of Defense (DoD). The NDAA tasks GAO to assess DoD's headquarter reduction efforts, building off its previous work conducted for the committee on examining growth in DOD headquarters. However, I believe Congress must go a step further in addressing the growth of the civilian workforce, especially as we draw down our uniformed personnel. It is important to note that:

From FY01 to FY14, the civilian staff has grown by 15 percent while total active military has declined by 4 percent;

The ratio of civilian workers to uniformed personnel is the highest in recent history despite the draw down in Iraq and Afghanistan;

There are currently 718,000 civilian personnel versus 1.3 million active duty, a ratio that is out of balance.

This imbalance is why I introduced the Rebalance for an Effective Defense Uniform and Civilian Employees Act (REDUCE Act, H.R. 4257). The REDUCE Act would require the Department of Defense to make necessary reductions in a systematic manner without compromising our ability to maintain a strong national defense over the long term.

The REDUCE Act would:

Reduce our defense civilian workforce by 15 percent by FY 2020. This percentage was recommended by the Defense Business Board, a trusted, authoritative, and independent source of expertise.

The Department of Defense civilian workforce would remain at or below this established cap of a 15 percent reduction for Fiscal Years 2021 through 2025.

The Department of Defense civilian Senior Executive Service career appointee workforce will be reduced to 1,000 by 2020 and remain at or below 1,000 employees for Fiscal Years 2021 through 2025.

Provide the Secretary of Defense the authority to use voluntary separation incentive

payments and voluntary early retirement payments in order to achieve the required reductions in personnel.

Provide the Secretary of Defense the authority to assign greater weight to the performance factor, rather than other factors such as tenure, in a Reduction in Force.

There is no doubt that our DoD civilian workers play a vital role in numerous positions including logistics, acquisition, personnel management, and more. The mission of the civilian workforce at DoD is to support our uniformed personnel and their missions around the world. However, as we draw down our uniformed personnel, it makes no sense to not make commensurate reductions to the civilian workforce—a practice that has occurred in previous drawdowns.

As Members of Congress, we should not let parochial interests prevent us from doing what is right for the country. Simply stated, it is inconceivable, defies logic and tramples the lessons of experience that a federal civilian job, once created, must live on forever. If our uniformed services are being reduced because the wars are ending, then a significant portion of the civilian jobs created to support those warfighters should be eliminated—not become contractor positions. Those jobs must be eliminated and done so at the legislative mandate of the Congress and at the executive discretion of the Secretary of Defense.

In closing, I would like to mention that this was the last NDAA brought to the House floor by my good friend and the Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Rep. BUCK McKEON (CA–25). I want to thank Chairman McKEON for all of the hard work and dedication he has demonstrated on behalf of our troops and their families throughout his service here in the House.

HONORING SERGEANT KYLE
WHITE

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Sergeant Kyle White. Sgt. White was awarded the highest honor in the military, the Medal of Honor for meritorious conduct, by President Barack Obama on May 13, 2014.

Like his fellow soldiers, he is accustomed to running toward danger instead of away, but Sgt. White's courage is above and beyond the ordinary. He repeatedly ran the gauntlet of enemy fire to get to wounded and fallen soldiers, regardless of his personal safety. In an ambush in November of 2007 Sgt. White, who was barely 20 years old, stayed with a wounded and fallen soldier for the duration, calling in reports and directing others so that the wounded and dead could be safely evacuated. It is my privilege and greatest honor to represent our Veterans in Congress and I applaud the decision to award him with this medal. It is well deserved.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Sgt. Kyle White, and I thank him for the many sacrifices he has made in service to our nation.

RECOGNIZING MR. ROBERT ISHAM

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent from Nevada's First Congressional District, Robert Isham. A young Mr. Isham enlisted in the United States Navy on November 4, 1942, in Seattle, Washington. He then attended Basic Training in San Diego, California. Following his graduation from the Naval Air Technical Training Center in Norman, Oklahoma, where he was trained to be an Aviation Machinist Mate, he was transferred to the Virginia Naval Air Station in Norfolk, Virginia.

On September 17, 1943, Mr. Isham was seriously injured in an explosion and fire at the Virginia Naval Air Station when a 300 pound depth charge exploded, setting off a chain reaction of 23 more charges. Thirty-three aircraft and at least 15 buildings across the base were destroyed. Many were killed and a number of individuals, including Mr. Isham, were badly hurt.

Following a three month stay at Norfolk Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia, Mr. Isham bravely returned to duty and was transferred to Quonset Point Naval Air Station in Rhode Island, where he taught courses on aircraft structures. Following a year in Rhode Island, Mr. Isham was transferred to Corvallis, Oregon, and became a Plane Captain on a F4U Corsair fighter aircraft.

Mr. Isham was discharged from the United States Navy on December 10, 1945. He was only rated as 10% disabled as a result of shrapnel wounds sustained during the tragic explosion in Norfolk, Virginia. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the American Area Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Recently, my office in Las Vegas worked with Robert and the Department of Veterans Affairs to increase his disability rating to 100%, ensuring he receives the benefits he deserved.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, we will take time to remember many members of the Greatest Generation who have passed away. Today, I ask the House to pause for a moment of gratitude in honor of my constituent, Mr. Robert "Bob" Isham, a member of the Greatest Generation and a decorated American hero.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF U.S. FOREIGN AND AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE ASSOCIATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th Anniversary of the U.S. Foreign Service and the American Foreign Service Association. Created by the Foreign Services Act of 1924, the Foreign Service brought together the U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Service and Consular Service to be the face, heart and soul of America abroad. Through a World War and various hot and

cold wars across the globe since, the men and women of the Foreign Service have played vital roles in representing the United States of America, serving U.S. citizens, and securing U.S. interest near and far.

Much has changed since the initial formation of the Foreign Service following World War I. But a few things have remained the same over these ninety years. Among them are the professionalism and dedication of those who often leave the creature comforts we have come to enjoy on our hallowed shores to serve in remote and distant places often with little recognition or notoriety for a cause far greater than themselves. I rise today to recognize them not only for the crises they led U.S. through, but also for the many crises they allowed our country to avert through their diligence, intellect, intuition, compassion and steely resolve to be champions for peace, democracy and basic humanity. I rise to recognize them for the service, care and comfort they provide to our citizens while abroad reminding them that the supporting hand of American is never far away.

Our world has become more globally networked and intertwined since the early days of "hand shake, face-to-face" diplomacy. Revolution can start in days now not months. Economic interests often go crosswise with security, social, or political interests. Adversaries on some issues are often allies on others and we look to the members of the Foreign Service to navigate and represent the nuances of American foreign policy. Yet time after time, year after year, crisis after crisis, issue after issue they have always owned up to the challenge and America and the world are the better for it.

Not only do we celebrate today the 90th Anniversary of the Foreign Service but also the 90th Anniversary of the American Foreign Services Association (AFSA) which was formed as the professional association of the modern Foreign Service and later became the official representative and advocate for our Foreign Service professionals. Initially formed with the Foreign Service in mind, the Association has expanded to represent not only Foreign Service retired and active employees of the Department of State and USAID but also the distinguished Foreign Agricultural Service and Foreign Commercial Service employees, Broadcasting Board of Governors and Foreign Service employees at the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. We stand today to celebrate this wonderful organization that has for ninety years served those who serve us.

Through the years AFSA has been stellar in fulfilling its mission of promoting a strong, effective professional career Foreign Service as the institutional backbone of American diplomacy, enhancing the effectiveness of the Foreign Service, protecting the professional interests and rights of its members, ensuring the maintenance of high professional standards for all American diplomats, career or political appointees, and promoting understanding of the critical role of diplomacy and development in promoting America's national security and economic prosperity. AFSA has been and continues to be an effective voice and strong advocate for the Foreign Service with its members' management, the Congress and the American public.

Finally, Mr. Speaker we can take comfort in this year of celebrating the Foreign Service's 90th Anniversary that whether it is a crisis in

Ukraine, a civil war in Syria, conflict and suffering in Africa, trade in North America or peace in the Middle East for example, our Foreign Service is there in fact and in spirit reflecting the best of who we are as a country and for that we say "Thank You" and congratulations on your 90th Anniversary.

WATER RESOURCES REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I strongly commend Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL for bringing conference report for the Water Resources and Reform Development Act to the floor. It represents a great bipartisan effort on one of Congress' true article one responsibilities, providing for America's infrastructure. In northeast Georgia, the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP) means jobs. Georgia's 9th Congressional District shipped more than 10,780 tons of goods through Georgia ports in 2013 alone. As a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, I fought for Georgia's investment in SHEP to get the project moving, and now as a member of the United States House of Representatives, I'm proud to vote in favor of the federal government living up to its promise of matching funds. Deepening this harbor from 42 to 47 feet will allow new supertankers to use the port to transport Georgia products all over the world.

There are a number of good reforms in this bill that will increase efficiency and reduce the cost of upcoming projects. A provision of the bill will limit the length and cost of Army Corps of Engineers feasibility studies, so that projects can be completed on schedule and on budget. This bill deauthorizes over \$18 billion of old, inactive projects, more than offsetting the authorizations in this bill. WRRDA also sunsets the authorization of any project authorized by the bill after 7 years if construction has not begun.

Any piece of legislation aimed at reform has room for improvement. Language included in the underlying bill regarding the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River (ACF) and the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa River (ACT) Systems was far from perfect. No language in this bill implies any Congressional intent to interfere with states' work on this important issue. This dispute has been ongoing for a number of years, and Congress interjecting will not bring about a more favorable outcome to any of the parties involved. Water supply disputes are best handled at the state level, and I trust that the governors of the affected states will come together and resolve the issue without Congressional intervention.

Overall, I am very supportive of this bill and urge its adoption.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the Shimkus amendment and efforts to undermine the continued success of the Internet.

The Internet has always been driven by consensus decision-making, or multistakeholder governance. This model brings together industry, civil society, government, technical and academic experts, as well the general public, to tackle issues around the design and operation of the Internet.

Three time in the past two years, this body has voted to reaffirm our commitment to the multistakeholder model, including last May when Democrats and Republicans joined together to unanimously pass H.R. 1580, a bill stating that "it is the policy of the United States to preserve and advance the successful multistakeholder model that governs the Internet."

So what exactly is the problem with the amendment before us today? It's a U-turn. The Shimkus amendment would restrict NTIA's authority to continue what has been U.S. policy since 1998—transitioning the government's role in administering the domain name system to the multistakeholder global community. Although supporters of the amendment characterize it as a stand against anti-democratic nations seeking a greater government role in Internet management, the amendment could have the opposite effect of emboldening efforts by authoritarian regimes to seize control of the global Internet. Specifically, authoritarian regimes point to the U.S. government's continued oversight of technical Internet functions as evidence that global Internet governance and management should be under the control of a governmental or intergovernmental entity such as the United Nations.

The Shimkus Amendment lacks a fundamental understanding of the U.S. government's role in the management of the global Internet domain name system. Contrary to assertions that the United States "controls" the Internet through an ongoing contract that the Administration is now proposing to terminate, NTIA's role has always been ministerial and largely symbolic. Simply put, the U.S. government has never had any legal or statutory responsibility to manage the domain name system.

The world is watching and now is not the time to turn our backs on a governance model that has enabled the Internet to flourish. I urge my colleagues to take a stand for a global Internet free from government control and vote "no" on the Shimkus amendment.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Chair, due to sequester cuts, the Department of Defense (DoD) needs to increase efficiency and lower costs wherever it can, but this costly amendment prevents DoD from hiring the most cost-efficient workforce. It also would prevent DoD from ever correcting, through insourcing, any contract that costs too much or is poorly performed, period—regardless of the increased costs to taxpayers.

According to the Government Accountability Office, DoD reports savings of almost \$1 trillion through insourcing in FY10 alone. In 2013, the DoD Comptroller acknowledged in a Senate hearing that civilian employees are significantly cheaper than contractors, particularly for the performance of long-term functions. So why would anyone want to make it impossible for DoD to save money by correcting overly costly or poorly-performed contracts, especially in a time of shrinking defense budgets? DoD can't afford this amendment, and neither can American taxpayers. Please join me in opposing this costly and wasteful amendment.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of our nation's veterans and express my views regarding H.R. 4031, the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014.

This weekend the nation will mark the occasion of Memorial Day the time our nation pauses to recognize the valor, and self-sacrifice of our nation's veterans.

We must remember that freedom is not free.

That is why the timing of the disclosure is especially troubling regarding accusations made by a whistleblower about the treatment of veterans seeking healthcare at the Phoenix Veterans medical facility.

Now, more than ever, we must renew our commitment to keep our promises to the nation's more than 2 million troops and reservists, their families, and 23 million veterans.

The Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center located in Houston, Texas serves the 32,477 veterans who I have the privilege of representing in my Congressional District.

The Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center serves as the primary healthcare provider for almost 130,000 veterans in southeast Texas.

Veterans from around the country are referred to the DeBakey VA Medical Center for specialized diagnostic care, radiation therapy, surgery, and medical treatment including cardiovascular surgery, gastrointestinal endoscopy, nuclear medicine, ophthalmology, and treatment of spinal cord injury and diseases.

DeBakey VA Medical Center provide vital healthcare services to Veterans in the Houston area and through the nation. The Medical Center houses:

- A Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinic;
- Network Polytrauma Center;
- an award-winning Cardiac and General Surgery Program;
- Liver Transplant Center;
- VA Epilepsy and Cancer Centers of Excellence;

- VA Substance Abuse Disorder Quality Enhancement Research Initiative;

- Health Services Research & Development Center of Innovation;

- VA Rehabilitation Research of Excellence focusing on mild to moderate traumatic brain injury;

- Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center; and

- one of the VA's six Parkinson's Disease Research, Education, and Clinical Centers.

In late 2012, the MEDVAMC received official designation as a Kidney Transplant Center. Including the outpatient clinics in Beaumont, Conroe, Galveston, Houston, Katy, Lufkin, Richmond, Tomball and Texas City, MEDVAMC outpatient clinics log more than a million outpatient visits annually.

Earlier this week I joined other members of the Congressional Women's Caucus for the Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery to remember the contributions of women who served our nation proudly in uniform.

Veterans are told that the care that they need can be found at Veteran medical facilities around the nation and we must be certain that they have access to the care that is provided.

The veterans who have served our nation deserve better than what we have been made aware of due to the disclosures related to the Arizona VA facility in Phoenix.

It has been reported that physicians at the Phoenix Veterans Hospital ignored mandates to prioritize treatment of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

The placement of veterans on secret waiting lists who later died is unconscionable and should be criminally investigated if proven to be true.

The Veterans facilities serving veterans in Houston, to my knowledge, are not under investigation regarding these terrible reports related to accusations of mistreatment of our nation's veterans.

I know that there are concerns regarding the implications of H.R. 4031 on civil service protection for federal employees at the Veterans Administration.

I am mindful of those concerns, but I am also very focused on making sure that our veterans receive the healthcare that they need.

Should this bill become law, I will make sure that veterans received the care they need, while monitoring how the authority provided under this bill is used.

The intent of this bill should not be solely for the removal of people from federal service unless there is cause for such action—like in the case of the Phoenix reports if proven to be true.

Falsifying federal records that may lead to the deaths or further degradation of health of our nation's veterans if true should disqualify a person from federal employment and the receipt of bonuses.

Our nation's veterans need help now—not later.

The work that Congress along with the Administration can do today to make sure that the promises made to our veterans and their families are kept should be done.

The bill would authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to remove any individual from the Senior Executive Service upon determining that such individual's performance warrants removal, and remove such individual from federal service or transfer the individual to a General Schedule position at any grade that the Secretary deems appropriate.

A part of the important job of our Nation's Secretary of Veterans Affairs is to administer a national hospital system for our nation's veterans.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs needs more than just the power to fire, but the authority and means to hire hospital and facility administrators at competitive rates when compared to the private sector.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs needs the ability to make decisions regarding distribution of resources and facility management.

The Secretary must have the ability to make decisions and the power to act on whether to open additional facilities or enter into agreements with private or other public hospital systems to meet the healthcare needs of returning Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans along with the needs of our aging veteran population who have increased need for healthcare.

The Veterans Administration needs Congressional intervention by making sure that the Secretary can be held fully accountable for how the Department functions because they have the authority and the means to manage the agency as it should be managed.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs would always be ultimately accountable to the oversight of Congressional Committees, and must provide greater transparency to veterans and their families on what the agency is doing to meet the needs of veterans.

But it is within our power as Members of Congress to make sure that our nation's veterans receive the best medical care that modern medicine has to offer to them and their families.

In the State of Texas we have over a million Veterans under the age of 65 and nearly a half million who are over the age of 65.

I believe that a message of unity is critical to the wellbeing of our men and women in uniform and those transitioning out of uniformed service to our nation.

Veterans share a kinship in ways that too few Americans who have not served can understand.

Our men and women in the military have fulfilled a commitment to this nation and to each other that we should imitate in our actions to work to provide for veterans now that their military service has ended.

Today, I want to renew my commitment to our nation's veterans by encouraging my col-

leagues to act to keep the nation's promises to them.

Congress must communicate its wholehearted support for the security of the nation by addressing mindless cuts created by sequestration.

I firmly believe that Congress must act to care for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen, both on and off the battlefield.

I believe that the nation's concern for their wellbeing must be more than in words, but must be reflected in deeds.

Veterans demonstrate a love of country and a measure of devotion making us proud as their Representatives, but we must offer to each veteran a level of comfort that the promises made to them will be kept.

Their quiet dignity sets aside concerns for self because their vision is broader than the moments of partisanship that we see too often in Washington, DC.

I ask that my colleagues remember the damage done to the budget of the Veterans Administration through cuts, sequestration, and the government shutdown.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that the passion that I see in the actions and words of fellow Members of the House will translate into a long-term commitment to mend what is broken at the VA and strengthen what is working well.

We should recognize the great work being done by a majority of doctors, nurses, therapists, and medical aides at the dozens of veterans medical facilities around the nation.

We must remember that the leadership at Veterans Affairs needs the funding and authority to make decisions regarding implementing solutions to overcome challenges of providing the best care possible to our nation's veterans.

We should seek reports on the ability of the VA to meet the challenge of the returning veterans from Afghanistan and Iraq as well as the needs of Veterans from previous wars with the current level of funding, personnel, offices, and medical facilities.

I am in support of our veterans and seek a bipartisan solution to resolving the problems with VA backlogs and the treatment of veterans and their families.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Chair, for the past year, the House Armed Services Committee has conducted an "Oversight of the Asia Pacific Rebalance." This initiative was brought forth by the collective leadership of Chairman BUCK McKEON and Ranking Member ADAM SMITH. I would also recognize Chairman RANDY FORBES and Congresswoman COLLEEN HANABUSA for their great efforts on this critical committee engagement,

culminating in their legislative contributions to the NDAA we consider here today.

Without question, the Asia Pacific Rebalance constitutes one of America's most important military and security policies. The Chairman and I both represent districts in a state with vast ties to the Asia Pacific—whether political, security, military, economic, cultural, social and even people-to-people exchange. We also have a vibrant Asian American community in our state that is an embodiment of our relationship with this critically important region.

It is within this context that I wish to raise an important issue and one that I feel is central to the Asia Pacific Rebalance. Let me be clear that I feel this issue is both germane to the jurisdiction of this committee and our consideration of the NDAA on the Floor.

As you and our colleagues on this committee are well aware, more than 200,000 young women and girls from throughout Asia and the Pacific, but mainly from Korea, were forced to become sex slaves during World War II by the Imperial Armed Forces of Japan. For over 70 years, these women endured unspeakable and nightmarish ordeals and have yet to receive a formal apology.

There are those who believe that the Comfort Women issue is a controversial historical dispute that is not germane to our committee's jurisdiction or the NDAA. I fundamentally disagree. As a case in point, during President Obama's recent Asia trip a couple of weeks ago, he specifically brought up the Comfort Women issue. At a joint press conference with Korean President Park Geun-Hye, President Obama stated that what happened to the Comfort Women was "terrible and egregious," that these "women deserved to be heard and respected" and that "there should be an accurate and clear account of what happened." President Obama made these remarks in the context of U.S.-Korea-Japan relations and the Asia Rebalance.

The Comfort Women survivors are dying by the day. Of the over 200,000 survivors less than 100 are still alive today. As a matter of valuing women's rights and human rights, these Comfort Women survivors deserve the dignity of a formal apology by the Japanese Government. I further urge Japan to follow the recommendations set forth in H. Res. 121 that was authored by my friend and colleague, Representative MICHAEL HONDA and passed the House on June 30, 2007. Proper resolution to this issue yields the benefit of closer U.S.-Korea-Japan trilateral relations which is critical to countering the North Korean nuclear threat and enhancing security ties with our allies.

Mr. Chair, I wish to reiterate the importance of this issue to our committee, our constituents, our state, our nation and our allies. I urge my colleagues to also offer expressions of support for the Comfort Women survivors.

CELEBRATING LOU WEINTRAUB

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lou Weintraub. The oldest veteran in the Sacramento Jewish Community, Lou turned 100 earlier this year and will be

honored at the Jewish Memorial Day Commemoration this weekend for his years of commitment to the Sacramento County community.

Born to Polish immigrant parents in New York in 1914, Lou and his two siblings were children of the Depression. He attended City College of New York, and later the University of Pennsylvania. Soon after, he served as a clinical psychologist in the military for four years during World War II.

A longtime executive with San Francisco's Jewish Community Federation before he retired, Lou has worked with and served on the board of many commissions and nonprofits in the Sacramento region, where he moved in 1989 after meeting his wife.

He continues to be very active, delivering food to the home-bound for Meals-A-La-Car and on the boards of both the Community Services Planning Council and the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library. He is currently the Vice-Chair of the Emergency Food and Shelter Board.

Lou is also an active congregant of Mosaic Law Congregation, attending its Daily Minyan and Shabbat and holiday services. He is known to regularly hold court after the services where at lunch in the social hall he is surrounded by people of all ages taking in his wisdom.

Lou's wife Roslyn summed him up best when she told the Sacramento Bee earlier this year, "What I see about Lou is that he cares more about other people than himself. He's always caring about somebody else."

Thank you, Lou, for caring, and for your continued dedication to the Sacramento area community.

SUPPORTING THE NAVY EA-18G "GROWLER"

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) and its Chairman, BUCK McKEON, on passage of the National Defense Authorization Act FY15 today that includes funding for additional Navy EA-18G "Growler" aircraft as well as language to stretch the EA-18G and FA-18 E/F lines in St. Louis, Missouri.

I recently visited the F-18 line in St. Louis, Missouri near my district. Like many Members I have an F-18 supplier in my district. Without additional funding, this line will shut down and we as a nation will lose a national asset including thousands of dedicated and talented workers who make up this defense industrial base.

But the EA-18G is about more than just jobs—it is about supporting our warfighter. The U.S. Navy has clearly stated before Congress this year that it has a requirement for additional EA-18G airborne electronic attack aircraft that are vital to current and future operations—both for the Navy and other services. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the coming weeks, especially on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, to help address this clear Navy and joint war fighting requirement. The warfighter

needs the EA-18G and we in Congress need to continue to support our warfighters.

SUPPORTING CONTINUED PRODUCTION OF THE EA-18G "GROWLER"

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) and its Chairman, BUCK McKEON, and Ranking Member SMITH, on passage of the FY15 Defense Authorization Bill (H.R. 4435) today that includes funding for additional Navy EA-18G "Growler" aircraft as well as language to continue the EA-18G and F/A-18 E/F lines in St. Louis, Missouri.

During this year's deliberations of the President's budget request, the committee received a request from the Navy for an unfunded requirement for 22 additional airborne electronic attack (AEA) aircraft—the EA-18G Growler. The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Admiral Greenert outlined the growing need to control the electromagnetic spectrum to support the warfighter. The CNO indicated to the Committee that the current level of AEA aircraft in the Navy inventory was just meeting the operational needs in today's world. However, based on increasing demands and a projected difficult operational environments in the future, the Navy requested 22 additional EA-18G Growlers. It is this Growler that can meet these expanding and stressing AEA operational requirements.

I have a number of constituents that commute to work on the production line in St. Louis, and like many members have F/A-18 suppliers in my district. Without additional funding for EA-18G aircraft, this important production line will shut down and we as a nation will lose a national asset—including thousands of dedicated and talented workers who make up this defense industrial base.

But the EA-18G is about more than jobs—it is about supporting our warfighter. The Navy has clearly made its case before Congress that it has a growing operational requirement for additional EA-18G aircraft that are vital to current and future operations—both for the Navy and other services.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the coming weeks, especially on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, to help address this clear Navy requirement. We need to support our warfighter needs and the EA-18G Growler is key to operating and prevailing in the important airborne electronic attack environment.

PLANT OF THE YEAR IN NORTH AMERICA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate TRW Automotive's Fowlerville, Michigan facility on earning Quality magazine's "Plant of the Year in North America" award for quality, safety and continuous

improvement. Employing more than 200 people, the Fowlerville plant manufactures slip control braking systems. The plant, like all of TRW's, can be recognized for its use of a visual management system that uses a color coded process to track production for safety and quality.

TRW had sales of \$17 billion last year, and supplies dozens of major car manufacturers with safety and component parts. It has more than 65,000 employees globally. The Fowlerville plant, together with its neighboring plant in Fenton, contributed roughly \$360 million in annual sales in 2012. The two plants share a management team, as well as best practices.

With dedicated effort to quality, Michigan manufacturers continue to prove "Made in U.S.A." is not a thing of the past. I am proud of TRW's Fowlerville plant and I am proud of Michigan's manufacturing tradition.

RECOGNIZING THE SUSAN G.
KOMEN TWIN TIERS REGION
"RACE FOR THE CURE"

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Susan G. Komen Twin Tiers Region "Race for the Cure" on another successful event this year. This event, which was held for the 16th consecutive year, took place on Sunday, May 18, 2014 in Elmira, New York.

This race is a bold statement of unity among the survivors of breast cancer, the friends and families who support the ongoing search for a cure, and those who are currently fighting this disease. The annual event has raised over \$1 million for projects focusing on cancer research, prevention, and treatment. Seventy-five percent of this money has remained in the Southern Tier, directly benefiting thousands of my constituents.

Breast cancer affects millions of individuals in the United States each year, including countless friends, family members, and neighbors in my congressional district. For far too long, this disease has taken away our loved ones; an estimated 40,000 people will die from breast cancer this year. As a nation, we must continue to support every victim of breast cancer and show steadfast resolve in our efforts to find a cure for this disease.

Thanks to the hard work of Komen Twin Tiers Region staff and over 200 volunteers, more than 1,000 people participated in this year's "Race for the Cure." Every person involved in the event displayed their unwavering determination to finding a cure for breast cancer and supporting those affected by this disease.

I especially appreciate the work of Scott Heffner and Megan Burns, co-chairs of the race, who were primarily responsible for the success of this event. I am confident that the hard work of dedicated individuals like Scott and Megan will continue to benefit victims and survivors of breast cancer as we continue working together toward a cure for this horrible disease.

HONORING ISAIAH HUTSON
SALINAS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Isaiah Hutson Salinas. Isaiah is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 152, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Isaiah has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Isaiah has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Isaiah has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Isaiah planned and coordinated a project to remove the asphalt shingles from a hiking shelter at Jay Cooke State Park in Carlton, Minnesota, and replace them with a metal roof.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Isaiah Hutson Salinas for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

BOW YOUR HEADS IN HONOR OF
ALL THE FALLEN THIS MEMO-
RIAL DAY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on this Memorial Day I rise in honor and remembrance, and gratitude for all of those families of the Armed Forces who gave That Last Full Measure in the name of Freedom. Carry them with you in your hearts this holiday and say a prayer for all of them and their families. I ask that this poem penned in their honor by Albert Carey Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

BOW YOUR HEADS

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

Bow your heads . . .
And close your eyes . . .
And say a prayer for all those girls and guys . . .

And all of those families who now so cry!
Our most brilliant of all men and women of
the military,
our GI's!

Army, Navy, Air Force, and The United
States Marines,

no greater gift can so be seen!
And this Memorial Day,
please . . . please . . . please remember why!
We are free,
so you and I!

And remember that throughout the world,
all in such deep dark cold ground lies some-
one's little boy or girl!

Who But For The Greater Good,
so gave That Last Full Measure in all they
could!

As the angels up in heaven began to cry!
Thank them for the gifts they gave!
Thank them for teaching us all how heroes
behave!

On this Memorial Day!
As all of those families,
so wipe the tears away!
And all of those children at night,
with tears in eyes so lie awake!
Now bow your heads . . .
And close your eyes . . .
Upon, your knees!
Say a prayer,
for all of these most heroic girls and guys!
And all of those families,
who now so cry!
And why we are free,
I bid you please remember why!
Bow your heads!
Amen!

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON NA-
TIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Chair, I want to thank Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for their work on this critical legislation, The National Defense Authorization Act.

I believe that it is our sacred obligation to help the men and women who served our country find good-paying jobs in today's economy and transition seamlessly from active duty to the civilian labor market. The men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces receive first class training in the military and develop skills that are valuable in the civilian workforce. Too often, they return home and find it challenging to obtain employment.

The underlying bill authorizes a pilot program to connect civilian employing agencies with service members who are leaving the military and entering the civilian workforce. I offered an amendment that requires the Secretary of Defense to consider how those agencies will work with state and county Veterans Affairs offices, as well as National Guard offices.

Some of the most valuable resources and information that troops and veterans receive come from their local VA and National Guard offices. Their dedicated professionals have experience and expertise on the front lines and understand the unique needs of service members and veterans.

By coordinating these services, we can more fully assist veterans in a seamless transition from military service to civilian life—and we can start that by helping them find good wage jobs.

Our veterans have earned the thanks of a grateful nation when they return home, and employers can and will benefit from the skills, discipline, and professionalism veterans possess.

I want to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for including my amendment in this en bloc package.

HONORING OUR COURAGEOUS
NURSES

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, you can always identify them in a crowd wearing blue,

green, pink, and yellow, and sometimes wearing a white coat. They have wings on their backs and many times a tired, tilted halo over their heads. They often miss holidays and similar events with family and friends. They work during times the rest of us sleep 24/7. They are educators who provide a concerned ear and empathetic heart, a smile supported by professionalism, and an unmatched sense of selfless service for those in need. They are

angels of mercy. May God bless our courageous nurses, and especially this week. Mr. Speaker, may I say to that special nurse in my life: I love you.